

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Freedom of the city for communist

Mr George Caborn, aged 65, a veteran trade unionist and communist, who organized Monday's strike by 25,000 Sheffield workers against unemployment, is today being granted the freedom of the City of Sheffield (Ronald Karshaw writes).

Sheffield's highest honour has gone to only 55 people since 1835. While nobody on the council voted against his nomination, some Conservative members abstained, and will boycott the ceremony.

Mr David Blunkett, the Labour leader, said last night that the decision to grant the freedom of the city was taken by all political groups on the council. Not everybody receiving the honour shared the philosophy of those nominating them.

Mr Caborn was a member of the Communist Party executive for eight years. He is chairman of the Sheffield district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Doctors fight cash limit

Britain's 400,000 nurses and 57,000 doctors have now submitted pay claims and both groups are claiming rises in line with inflation, now running at 12 per cent (Amabel Fernandez writes).

The nurses submitted their claim yesterday at a full meeting of the Whitley Council, and the British Medical Association, which submitted its claim to the General Medical Council, yesterday.

The nurses' claim is for a 4 per cent cash limit, being imposed by the Government on the health service from April.

Miners sign 9.5% deal

Three months of pay dispute in the mining industry ended yesterday in a 20-minute signing ceremony at a 9.5 per cent deal for 220,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers. The miners had voted by a clear majority against going on strike (Our Labour Editor writes).

There was no sign of the bitterness of last week's exchanges between left and right when the union's executive conceded that the 55 to 45 per cent pithead vote for the coal board's £102m agreement must now be implemented. Miners will receive the new basic weekly increase ranging from £6.85 to £9.60 in their February 5 pay packet, and back-pay arising from the November 1, 1981 settlement date, three weeks later.

Child battering under scrutiny

A new project to find ways of studying the problem of children who are physically assaulted by their parents was launched yesterday.

The first phase of the research programme at Manchester University is being supported by a £23,000 grant from the Social Science Research Council.

The project which is being led by Dr Geoffrey Davies and Dr David Smith, will focus on families where children have suffered non-accidental injury.

Head in 'beating dispute' stays

The headmaster of a village school in Cornwall where a nine-year-old boy was beaten, was told yesterday that the school governors had expressed unanimous confidence in the headmaster.

Meat dealer is cleared

Magistrates yesterday cleared a "knacker's yard owner of knowingly selling contaminated meat to two butchers, Walter Leonard, aged 55, of Crook Lane, Wigan, near Leicester, said he had been tricked by the butchers who told him the meat was to be processed for food for animals at Wharfedale, Bedfordshire. Instead, they sold it at a profit the Leicester court was told.

76,000 DHSS girocheques lost in 1980

By Our Political Staff

Fraud involving girocheques sent through the Post Office for payment of social security benefits is "extremely prevalent", Sir Cecil Clothier, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman), reported to the Commons yesterday.

"I am told that in 1980, 76,000 girocheques were reported as having gone astray and of these, more than 47,000 were later found to have been cashed either by the beneficiary or by someone who intercepted the girocheque."

On a complaint referred to him by an MP, Sir Cecil investigated how a girocheque for £74 had gone astray. The complaint was made by a woman who was living with the man to whom it was addressed. The Ombudsman decided that, although she was not the payee, she was at the time part of the "family unit" for which the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) was paying supplementary benefit.

A note made by the postmaster recorded that the girocheque was cashed by someone purporting to be the woman. She said she had not received it, so did the man. The police could find no evidence to contradict what the man said and no one at the post office could recall the transaction. It was decided that further investigation by the DHSS would be pointless.

Officials decided not to issue a replacement cheque. They took into account that between November, 1979, and February, 1980, the couple had been claiming supplementary benefit separately while living as husband and wife, and in doing so had been parties to a deception. Too much benefit was therefore paid and, although there were no fraud charges, they were cautioned.

Sir Cecil says that in view

of the prevalent fraud, the department quite rightly expected their local staff to be on guard to protect public money. Referring to girocheques that go astray, he says it would be unreasonable to expect the DHSS to investigate every one in great detail. Staff are instructed to interview the claimants of the missing cheques, but only to investigate further if it is likely to prove effective.

The department exercised its discretion in not replacing the £74 girocheque and he found no maladministration. In 1980 the Department of Health and Social Security issued 52,600,000 girocheques, worth in total £1,725m. The average value of a girocheque issued was £32.77. An official of the Ombudsman's office said last night that later information disclosed that the total number that went astray was 76,500, 79,000 as stated in the report.

The Inland Revenue is also criticized in two of the Ombudsman's findings on the handling of tax affairs.

Mr Edward Rowlands, Labour MP for Meridym Tydfil, has asked the Ombudsman to say whether Department of Employment officials are the guilty of an abuse of administrative power in requiring applicants for unemployment benefit to answer "offensive" personal questions, under the threat of losing benefit if they decline.

He has sent the Ombudsman a copy of a questionnaire which a few unemployment benefit offices are using. Mr Rowlands believes that until legislation is passed there is no statutory basis for making applicants answer the questionnaire.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, First Report, 1981-82. (Stationery Office, £5.85.)

MPs' race pleas ignored

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Alex Lyon: "Very disappointed."

cause of many of the failures in the racial discrimination legislation, Mr David Lane, outgoing chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said that he had hoped for a more positive response with a greater sense of urgency.

One of the 57 recommendations have been accepted. For example, the Government agrees that Section II of the Local Government Act, 1966, should be reformed and it is consulting local authorities on this.

The Government has also accepted a proposal for monitoring the number of black people in the Civil Service on an experimental basis.

But it has rejected many other recommendations, including the setting up of an inquiry into the teaching of English as a second language; the setting up of a body to oversee research into race relations at the Home Office; the establishment of a central programme of teacher training

on multi-cultural education; and the inclusion of an ethnic question in the next census.

The committee's report accused the Home Office of being reluctant to interfere in race relations policy and of limiting itself to the "essentially passive role of spectator."

It said that if it did not perform an active, coordinating role, no other department would. The report also recommended that a Cabinet committee should be set up to pull policy together.

In its White Paper, the Government replies as follows: "The Prime Minister ensures that satisfactory arrangements are made, through his committees, for the implementation of the Government's policy inter-departmentally and for resolving any differences which arise between departments."

To give the Home Office the lead, the committee, which would involve inter-departmental responsibilities with the risk that it might reduce the effectiveness of the Government's policy on tackling racial disadvantage.

The MPs' proposal that special units tackle racial disadvantage in education, environment and health are rejected on the ground that they are not needed. The White Paper says the Civil Service College is already renewing its training programmes so that administrators are aware of racial disadvantage.

The suggestion that the needs of ethnic minority businesses should be specially considered in the proposed new loan guarantee scheme is also rejected.

Scarman opposes quotas for blacks

By a Staff Reporter

"I want to see positive action taken, in order to ensure that the disadvantaged members of our community can be brought up into a situation in which they have equality of opportunity."

Expounding his views in Robin Day's Taking Issue programme on BBC Television, Lord Scarman said he did not recommend reverse discrimination in his report last week on the Brixton riots because he did not think the British public would accept it.

SDP talks on seat share-out resumed

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Social Democratic Party leaders agreed yesterday to a demand from the Liberals that there should be a full resumption of negotiations on the share-out of parliamentary seats for the next general election.

The agreement came at a meeting of the parties' national negotiating teams in London and marks the apparent end of the alliance's first serious rift, which began three weeks ago when Mr William Rodgers, one of the SDP joint leaders, suspended talks.

A week later the breach was partially healed when talks were resumed in the 16 bargaining units where negotiations had gone under way or were planned and yesterday it was agreed that negotiations should start immediately in the remaining 17 areas.

Negotiators also decided to attempt to reach the projected March 31 deadline for the completion of negotiations and the agreement of a national electoral pact, although it was privately conceded later by MPs that both parties had such an objective might be optimistic.

National teams are to meet every fortnight from now on to review progress.

The SDP said last night it had agreed to resume talks because it was satisfied with progress made since the last meeting of the two sides, two weeks ago.

To reach yesterday's agreement, negotiators were influenced by evidence of public distaste at the first sign of quarrel. An opinion poll published last week indicated that support for the alliance was falling and the risk of the outbreak of hostilities.

Only in two negotiating units, Nottinghamshire and Surrey, have formal accords been reached but others are bearing completion. Agreements should be completed in 100 seats.



Success on a plate: Miss Margaret Cross, aged 19, of Craigaron, Co Armagh, voted top school cook of 1982, with the Moorwood Vulcan Trophy, awarded in London yesterday for her fish recipe for four, costing a maximum £2.50.

Irish face 'severe' Budget

From Richard Ford

The Irish Republic was preparing for a "very, very severe" Budget today when Dr Garret FitzGerald's coalition government introduced measures aimed at resolving the country's economic difficulties.

The Budget, to be broadcast for the first time, is the second to be introduced by Mr John Bruton, Minister of Finance, since the coalition took office last July and it must be designed not only to tackle the high level of government spending and borrowing but also ensure the administration's survival.

The signs are that when voting takes place later tonight on certain Budget proposals, the minority Fine Gael-Labour Government will survive by a narrow margin.

During the past few weeks, ministers have told the Irish people, already used to high prices, that there are no easy options. The Central Bank in its winter quarterly bulletin said that in 1982 growth in the light of both Sir Frank's advice and of the strong pressure from all the inner London boroughs on the authority to reduce expenditure next year.

Sir Frank reminds the authority that it has a duty to

Spending targets not binding ILEA told

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Government spending targets are not binding on councils, but they must be taken into consideration as "most weighty factors" if the local authority is to remain within the law, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, the leading expert on local authority finance, said in advice to the Inner London Education Authority.

The controlling Labour group on the authority announced earlier this month that it intended to ignore the Government's spending target of £580m in the next financial year, representing a cut of 14 per cent. It planned instead to adopt a budget of about £600m, which it said was needed to maintain the present level of provision.

However, the Labour group will reconsider its decision at special meetings called for tonight and Sunday, in the light of both Sir Frank's advice and of the strong pressure from all the inner London boroughs on the authority to reduce expenditure next year.

Sir Frank reminds the authority that it has a duty to

endeavour to maintain a reasonable balance between the benefits flowing from the provision of local authority services and the burden placed on the ratepayer.

A decision whose basis was only one of prior political commitment, through, for example, a manifesto, was likely to be held unlawful, he said. The Government's economic climate, a court would expect a local authority to budget for spending reductions wherever practicable. An authority's reasons for not seeking such reductions would need to be weighty.

Sir Frank said he believed the Inner London Education Authority would not be at risk if it budgeted for an expenditure of £575m, representing a cut of 7 per cent. The further the authority departed from that figure, however, the less easy it would be to defend its position in the courts.

In a report sent to members yesterday, the authority's chief legal officer says he believes a budget of £750m, maintaining current provision still had "a good chance of being defensible."

Early rape law action discounted

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister agreed yesterday to stall any precipitate action on the reform of rape law.

A 90-minute meeting of ministers at Number 10, called specifically to review the recent spate of publicity, it was disclosed that no big developments should be expected.

The announcement meant that Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had been persuaded that the Government should not rush into legislation with mandatory prison sentences for convicted rapists.

Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, is believed to have emphasized to his Cabinet colleagues that judges do not favour mandatory sentences, because of the risk of anomalies.

Mr Whitelaw told the Commons only last week that he supported the view of Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, that rapists should be imprisoned unless there were exceptional circumstances.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group, said that he would press forward with his own amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, introducing mandatory prison sentences with Members.

Mr Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that the Government had decided to await the report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee, chaired by Lord Justice Lawton, which has assured the Home Secretary that it will take into account recent events and publicity.

The Prime Minister said she will also seek a meeting with Mrs Justice Heilbrunn, a High Court judge who had chaired an advisory group on the law of rape.

Bysskidd — the stand was Mrs Thatcher told Sir Nigel Fisher, Conservative MP for Kingston-upon-Thames, that

Science report

Brain surgery research 'promising'

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

Research into the transplant of brain tissue and parts of the spinal cord to repair damage from accident or illness is at a promising stage, Sir Arnold Burger, director of the National Institute for Medical Research, said at Mill Hill, north London, yesterday.

He was discussing the work of Doctor G. Raisman and Doctor M. R. C. Sherwood, neurobiologists at the Institute. Dr Raisman says the research is a long-term programme that falls into three phases.

Unlike other parts of the body, the brain and spinal cord do not repair themselves. Yet the first phase of research into brain transplant shows that damaged tissue does grow and forms connections between some of the cells. But the tissue is not restored to its useful function.

Two approaches are being tried to discover why regenerated tissues cannot be organized into useful new growth. Direct grafting is being done in the laboratory to form a transplant that acts as a bridge to support new tissue as it is growing. The other approach is to introduce directly a transplant substitute of the same type of cells as those that have been damaged. Experiments show that some types of cells can survive in the brain, but others do not.

Transplants of cells of the hippocampus part of the brain, carried out in frogs, showed that the three main types of cells will survive in the brain, but the other types, the glial cells, Dr Raisman says, that the transplant is not as perfect as the normal organ. But it looks like normal tissue.

He says the important question is whether the cells will produce the right connections between themselves and the host. It is crucial for those connections to grow in a two-way process, from the host to the transplant and from the transplant to the host.

The neurobiologists' early results show that the connection between some cells form rapidly, but others do not.

More Britons are seeking a new life overseas

By David Hewson

Immigration staff at foreign embassies in London yesterday digested the news of Britain's lengthening unemployment queues and prepared themselves for a fresh rush of families seeking a new and prosperous life abroad.

Britain has been losing more residents than it has taken in for some years now; but the tide of discouraged nationals trying to leave the country continues to grow, with every worsening employment statistic.

Even South Africa, which saw a dramatic fall in immigration during the guerrilla war in neighbouring Zimbabwe, was a net loser of 12,000 Britons in 1979, 12,800 Britons left for the republic.

Between January and June last year, a total of 158,000 United Kingdom citizens and 77,000 foreign citizens who had been resident in Britain, left to live abroad.

Mr Charles Rogers, Minister Counsellor for Immigration at the Canadian High Commission, said yesterday that applications had increased by 20 per cent compared with the same period last year.

He added: "It isn't the unemployed who are going; they may be applying, but they are not emigrating. The ones going forward say that their reasons for going are that they hope to improve their own mobility, and the future for their children."

Mr Rogers's department issued 11,800 visas in 1980.

Most popular destinations of UK residents leaving to live abroad (January to June 1981):

Australia	43,000
EEC	28,000
US	28,000
Mid East	24,000
Canada	20,000
S Africa	18,000

Source: Office of Population Censuses and Surveys
Figures include residents of other countries leaving the UK after at least one year's residence.

Dr Arthur appeal hint

By Nicholas Timmins

The Attorney General is considering referring to the Court of Appeal the case of Dr Leonard Arthur, the paediatrician acquitted last year of attempting to murder a three-day-old baby with Down's Syndrome.

The reference would be on a point of law, and would not affect Dr Arthur, but would clarify whether the trial judge was correct to rule that the decision to prescribe nursing care only for the baby could not be attempted murder.

Attorney General, has told Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, Central, that he is reconsidering the decision not to make a reference, after representations from MPs and others.

A Court of Appeal ruling would be binding, whereas the current judgment is only a persuasive authority. Sir Michael's statement was welcomed yesterday by Life, the anti-abortion organization which reported Dr Arthur to the police and has lobbied for a reference to the Court of Appeal.

AIR FARES CASE PLEA BY MP

By Our Political Staff

An appeal to Lord Bethell to drop his action in the European Court to force the reduction of air fares in Europe, was made last night by Sir Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar and chairman of the all-party aviation group at the Commons.

He said there were strong reasons for supposing that by action against price-fixing in the European Court, which is expected to be heard by the Court in Luxembourg in April, would raise expectations which were unlikely to be realized.

Lord Bethell, Conservative MP for London North West, has the support of the British Government for his action but is opposed by British Airways, who say that they support his aim of cheaper fares but not his means.

Mr McCrindle told The Times yesterday that there was a powerful theoretical case that the Treaty of Rome was being violated, and there was no doubt, a chance of Lord Bethell's case being won, but at the cost of delay to further progress by the withdrawal of cooperation, and a growing reliance on legalistic detail.

He thought there would be faster and more sustained progress by a continuation of bilateral negotiations between airlines.

Overseas sell 'n' prices

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Denmark	£1.20
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Germany	£1.20
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BL Fighting back

Bribery charge rubbish, Bremner hearing told

Bribery allegations against Billy Bremner, the former Scotland and Leeds football player, were described as rubbish by Sir Allan Clark, his former team mate, in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Johnnie Giles, Mr Bremner's former midfield partner in the Leeds side of a decade ago, said the allegations in the Sunday People were ludicrous.

Frederick Lawson, former Leeds striker, who played in a 1962 game at Southampton, been fixed, said the allegations were ridiculous.

The three gave evidence for Mr Bremner, aged 39, now managing Doncaster Rovers, in his action against the Sunday People, the publishers, and Danny Hegan, a former Wolverhampton Wanderers player, claiming damages for libel.

Mr Bremner is also alleging slander by Mr Hegan, now a football coach at Butlin's holiday camp in Clacton.

Mr Hegan is alleged to have told a reporter that Mr Bremner offered him a "grand" to give away a penalty in a championship deciding match between Leeds and Wolves in 1972.

Libel and slander are denied. The defendants contend their allegations of attempted bribery and match-fixing were true.

Mr Bremner denied in the witness-box that he had ever offered a bribe to a footballer or attempted to fix a match.

Mr Clarke, now manager of Leeds, told the jury that he was disgusted by the article, published in 1977. Mr Bremner was a magnificent captain, he said.

The hearing continues

Tor Hesse new

By Mr. Hesse

Mr. Hesse, Secretary of the Environment, said yesterday that the Tory government's new block grant system for local authorities would be a "major step forward" in the fight against unemployment.

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But the Minister of the Environment said the new system would be a "major step forward" in the fight against unemployment.

Whitewash seeks p crisis fa

Home Affairs Secretary, Mr. William Whitelaw, said yesterday that the Home Office was "not in a crisis" and that the government was "not in a crisis".

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By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Whitelaw seeks police crisis facts

By Peter Evans

Denying that the association was engaged in a publicity stunt, Mr Shaw said it wanted the Government to see the dangers if metropolitan counties drastically reduced police expenditure. He said that would be certain to affect the man on the beat, and in view of last summer's riots, that was where increases ought to take place.

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

It said that Suffolk Coastal District Council had decided before permission for the station was sought that "with regard to the issue of the national need for further nuclear power the council accepts government policy as emerges".

- By Diana Geddes -

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by David Nicholson-Lord

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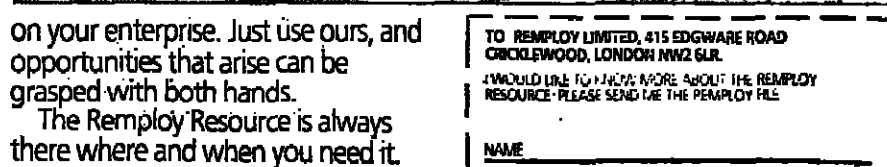
DE: removed yesterday

Side, Manchester.

By a Staff Reporter

explosion, told the inquest: "We were laughing and joking. The next thing I feel, as I do, that I represent something of understatement", he said.

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By John Witherow

The Chelsea victims who died were Mrs Nora Field, aged 59, a widow of Vauxhall, London, and Mr John Patrick



almost certainly the type of device used by the IRA." The nail bomb led to horrific injuries. Mrs. Nora Field was killed instantly by the six inch nail which was bent into a U shape as it tore

through her chest "disrupt- joking. The next thing I

coroner, recorded that all three victims had been unlawfully killed. "The verdict unlawfully killed is a form of words I am obliged to use according to the law, but in this instance, people may feel as I do that they

feel, as I do, that they represent something of an understatement", he said.

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Encouraging factors amid tragic total

UNEMPLOYMENT

When the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition clashed in the Commons over the announcement this morning that unemployment in the United Kingdom had topped three million, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that the current Labour Government's record was better than that of the former Labour Government. She listed what she called "encouraging factors" on such factors as inflation and productivity.

Mr Michael Foot declared it was an insult to talk of encouraging factors particularly when most of them were misleading but Mrs Thatcher said that inflation was coming down and it was vital that it should if they were to have a soundly-based recovery.

She pointed out too that the total population of working age was increasing by about one million in the five years from 1980 to 1985. A peak of 920,000 children reached the school leaving age of 16 last year. Those demographic factors had to be considered in judging the tragic unemployment figures.

But the only real answer to Mr Foot, she said, was one he would not accept — the consumer decided where the jobs went.

Mr Foot asked: As the budget statements of Sir Geoffrey Howe have contributed to these terrible unemployment figures will she give us an assurance that at the Cabinet on Thursday there will be no more cuts, no more deflation, no more monetary madness and no more of the measures which have contributed

to this terrible despair for the nation?

Mrs Thatcher: I cannot say what will take place at Cabinet on Thursday because Cabinet agendas are not revealed. I know that encouraging figures are never of any interest to Mr Foot or other Labour MPs. Our average record on inflation is better than that during the whole of the last Labour government. (Labour interruptions.)

Possibly due to Sir Geoffrey Howe's last budget, the December current account surplus was nearly £500m. Our productivity record this year put us at the top of the league table of the industrialized countries. That is something to be proud of.

Our reserves are up to 23 billion dollars, unlike the equivalent time during his last government. We were then down to four billion dollars and were broke.

Mr Foot: When unemployment figures reach such a total it is an insult to have to talk of encouraging figures, particularly when most of the figures are misleading. (Conservative cries of "No.") They are not back to the figures at the end of 1979. The inflation figures are not back to what they were when she came into office. She is shown as having taken measures which have pushed up unemployment.

Now we are told by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, that we have reached the peak. What is the peak that she and her government are heading for?

Mrs Thatcher: Productivity per man hour is at an all time record. On inflation, Mr Foot's average figure in 1974, his first

year, was 16.1, ours was 13.4. In his second year, his average was 24.2; ours was 18. In his third year of office, his average inflation rate was 25; ours was 11.9. Better all round.

Mr Foot: Under her figures, there are 32 people chasing every vacancy. What was the figure when she took office?

Mrs Thatcher: The vacancy figures will be found in the Department of Employment press notice. Vacancies, jobs now being notified to jobseekers, are increasing. Stock is greater than a year ago. Mr Foot got unemployment down temporarily at the cost of reflation which puts unemployment up later. (Labour interruptions.)

Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham, West, Lab): With unemployment at over three million, official Government returns show over 5,700,000 people living in poverty. Is it not true that there are a further 1,100,000 living in poverty but not claiming that most of them are the unemployed and their families?

Is she not ashamed that under her regime one in eight of the British people are living in poverty? That is the highest figure for 50 years.

Mrs Thatcher: Every time social security benefits are raised the more people are able to go into employment. His definition of poverty is those able to draw social security benefits. He should look through the record of his own government and will find that an increase in the benefit led to an increase in the numbers eligible.

Earlier Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) had said: now



Thatcher: Inflation coming down.



Foot: Misleading figures.

that the official figures for unemployment have exceeded the three million mark, is the Prime Minister proud that she has brought despair to so many families in the United Kingdom?

Is she proud that she and her Government have created more misery for the British economy than the German High Command during the whole of the last war?

Is she proud that in order to carry out this ill-fated monetarist experiment she has had to put up taxes? Is it not true that the Westminster Ripper should join the unemployment trail, pack her bags, and go. (Labour cheers and Conservative protests.)

Mrs Thatcher: Of course, we all deplore the tragic unemployment... (Labour protests and shouts of "Euphoric" and the fact that so many want to find work find themselves

without a job, contrary to what Mr Skinner says, we also feel strongly about it on this side of the House. (Renewed Labour interruptions.)

I find his comments and his reference to the German High Command utterly distasteful, particularly for those who suffered or who lost relatives during the last war. (Conservative cheers.)

There is in fact, a certain amount of encouraging news. There is less short time being worked, more overtime, an increased inflow of vacancies, and unemployment is at a lesser rate than before.

Mr Skinner's reference to Germany. This last year in West Germany the rise in unemployment was 86,000 which is not very different from the 651,000 by which it rose in this country.

Prime Minister condemns action over newspapers

RAIL DISPUTE

No one must be allowed to jeopardise the freedom of the press, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said when she was questioned about the blocking of *The Sun* and *The Times* by railway workers at King's Cross station.

She was answering Mr John Troward (Barnet, Con) who said: The industrial action being taken by railwaymen at King's Cross in order to intimidate newspapers to influence what they print is a direct threat to the freedom of the press. (Conservative cheers.)

What action does the Prime Minister think the Railway Board should now take?

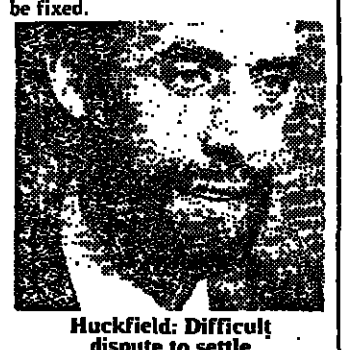
Mrs Thatcher: No one in this country, whether a member of a union or not, must be allowed to jeopardise the freedom of the press. (Conservative cheers.)

I condemn any action, whether by trade unions or others, which tends towards that end. All industrial action loses jobs, it does not gain them. (Renewed cheers.)

□ The railway industry was reaching a stage in its investment programme and if major expenditure on replacement was not started by next year the only alternative was a rapid rundown of the railway system. Mr Albert Booth, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said during the report stage of the Transport Bill (Finance Bill). Mr Booth (Barrow-in-Furness, Lab), moving an amendment to increase further the borrowing limit of the British Railways Board, said that what was needed from the Government was a commitment not only to maintain the existing rail network and service but to provide for a programme not on a year-by-year or line-by-line basis, but a programme for a decade. The Government should produce an external financing limit based on the concept of that programme

for a decade in the development of British Railways. Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lynton, Con) said the current dispute jeopardized British Rail's financing programme. If it dragged on much longer, it would inevitably have a damaging influence on the Government's attitude to wards investment in the railway system.

Mr Leslie Hunkfield (Nuneaton, Lab), parliamentary spokesman for Aslef, said the present dispute was not going to be settled easily. If it was not, British Rail might need to come back to the Secretary of State for Transport and ask for an even larger external financial limit to be fixed.



Hunkfield: Difficult dispute to settle.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Under Secretary of State for Transport said the Government, despite the difficulties of the past two years, had dealt with the railways generally and fairly. It was not the business of the Government to start extending the external finance limit to finance private settlements. The approach to the pay increase over and above the 8 per cent everybody got last year, the 39 hour week and the extra 3 per cent was that it should be paid for by improved productivity. That was the understanding of British Rail, the NUR, TSSA, and which Aslef had everybody else to believe it had arrived at but from which it was attempting to renege. The amendment was rejected by 108 votes to 62 — Government majority, 46.

Judge to see PM on rape cases

CRIME

The Prime Minister is to discuss with Dame Rose Heilbrunn, the High Court judge, recent rape cases and events which have caused concern to many.

Mrs Thatcher said during questions that Dame Rose Heilbrunn had chaired an advisory group on the law of rape, most of whose recommendations had been implemented with the unanimous approval of both sides of the House.

Building on that (she said) there is now a comprehensive criminal law revision committee reviewing of sexual offences, including rape and allied offences and the necessities for them.

In October 1980 it published a working paper inviting comments. These are still being received and the committee's intention is to produce a report which places the law on rape in the context of sexual assault generally.

This refers to the law of rape in England and Wales. The law in Scotland is different. I have thought it wise to attempt to discuss the recent events and cases which have caused concern to many, and the concern people felt after Dame Rose's report in 1976. She has agreed to come and we shall discuss these matters to see if any further steps are required.

In Scotland there is the possibility of a private prosecution and I can say nothing further about that. Mrs Thatcher was answering Sir Nigel Fisher (Kingston upon Thames, Surbiton, Con) who had asked: Is she aware of the public concern about the increasing number of offences of rape? If, as I understand, she has ordered a review of the problem, can she say what form it will take and when it will be completed? Mrs Thatcher also told him: We have obviously considered recent cases very carefully.

Special constituency for Speaker rejected

MP'S BILL

A Bill designed to create a special constituency which would be represented by the Speaker was heavily defeated. Leave was refused by 252 votes to 15 when Mr Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, Lab) sought to bring in a Bill under the 10-minute rule to provide for the creation of a constituency to elect the Speaker.

Mr Freud said that in the current political climate it was likely that in a general election the Speaker (Mr George Thomas) would find himself contesting the election. The Speaker was elected to sit above members and keep procedures in order, and this would be difficult if he had fought an election on a committed political policy.

The Bill would isolate the Speaker from a political constituency and so entrench the Speaker as an unelected member of the House who at present could not express their opinions on issues of the day while they remained in the constituency he represented.

One objection to the idea was how did Parliament get rid of the Speaker when it wanted to. The answer was that he would be elected by the House and the Speaker was elected. There was also the argument that if they created one special constituency why not create more. The answer was that there was only one Speaker and he held a very special office.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham, South, Lab), opposing the Bill, said that its effects, if it became law, would be to entrench the Speaker as an unelected member of the House who at present could not express their opinions on issues of the day while they remained in the constituency he represented.

Mr Speaker Lloyd had said in his farewell address to the House in 1976 that the Speaker should be elected by a constituency as were other MPs so that he could keep personally in touch with the opinions of many thousands of ordinary men and women. The Speaker's role was to get to know the problems of the area he represented.

The Speaker used to be appointed by the constitutional crown of the day. Although he formally sought that approval

now, it was the political crown of the day, the whole House, which made the appointment.

If he was not appointed by the members of the Parliament over which he presided, he would be a phantom member for a phantom constituency and in danger of becoming a phantom Speaker.

Conary to what the political textbooks said, much of what went on in the Commons was in a personal face to face confrontation between MPs, and the Speaker had to face all of them.

It is our confidence in our judgment (he continued) that places you where you are and you continuously have to maintain that confidence of all sides of the House and of all conditions. It is not an easy task. The fact that you and your successors whether women or men have to face the temper of the times, the political feel of the age and meet constituents, places you in a position which any MP cannot deny; whereas if you were appointed by another body,

perhaps a body of a different political or personal complexion than the one over which you presided, you would be in a position of undermining the authority which we place in your hands.

In 1939 a Commons select committee looked into the problem, and a membership of which included Mr Winston Churchill and chaired by Mr Lloyd George. They were particularly far-sighted in their report. In talking about the constituency of Mr Stephens they said that the creation of a special constituency of that type would introduce a new and undesirable principle of indirect election or co-optation.

Mr Keith Spence (Ashford, Con) said that the Speaker was not only the immense bill for the 385 Tornado aircraft on order but the ridiculous and non-sensical expensive Trident programme. The Speaker was also faced at about the same time?

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Some adjustments to defence procurement are inevitable

DEFENCE

Timetable changes in a large and diverse defence procurement programme, would always be necessary, but the main features of the programme envisaged in the 1980 White Paper stood, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said during Commons questioning.

Mr Hilary Miller, (Bromsgrove and Redditch, Con) had called upon the minister to restate the position about Britain's defence procurement in order to reassure defence industries and those who served in the forces. He asked whether Mr Nott had prolonged as previous amounts, timetable for the purchase of equipment.

Service in the Armed Forces (he added) provides valuable jobs for those who wish to serve their country and the equipment they use provides valuable jobs in our industry. There is some uncertainty in our defence industries arising out of the stream of releases about cancellations and prolongations.

Mr Nott: The professional and dedicated staff of the armed services are admired throughout the country. We should be proud of them.

Defence procurement generally will be spending more in real terms with British industry in the next financial year than this year and this year we are spending more than we did last year.

There will have to be some adjustments, maybe changes of a few months in some programmes, but there are bound to be these changes in such a large programme amounting to £2,000m a year. The Secretary set out in the White Paper published in June remains. All the major programmes there are going to be continued.

Mr Bruce George (Walsall, South, Lab): How many aircraft are available for the air defence of the United Kingdom? How does his recent announcement on Tornado affect the air defence variant of Tornado?

If this is likely to be delayed, how does it affect the air defence variant of Tornado?

Mr Nott: The air defence variant of Tornado is hardly affected by the reduction in the peak deliveries we have made. It will not affect the strike version and the air defence version may be affected by a month or two but little more as far as we can see.

On the air defence of the UK, which with him I regard as of greatest importance, we have agreed to run on two Phantom squadrons into the 1990s, a new decision. We intend to arm with the Side-winder 72 of our Hawk aircraft.

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Mr Nott: The bulk of the Tornado expenditure is happening at present. In the next financial year, the Tornado programme will cost the Ministry of Defence about £1,000m. The same expenditure profile in the next few years. The major expenditure will have been tapering off by the mid-1980s.

Generally speaking, the Tornado programme as a whole, when compared with the Trident programme as a whole, is infinitely more expensive. We are talking about a total programme cost for Tornado aircraft of some £1,500m, a huge programme which is going forward successfully.

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Council drops fares levy ahead of court hearing

By David Walker

The power of councils to levy rates and subsidise local buses and trains remained in its extraordinary state of confusion yesterday after a High Court judgment in favour of objectors to the supplementary rate levied last autumn by the West Midlands County Council to facilitate 25 per cent cuts in fares.

In the Divisional Court, Mr Justice Woolf gave Solihull Borough Council and Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd orders quashing the county rate on the ground that the county council had not taken "all relevant matters" into account when deciding on its precept.

But it was a pyrrhic victory for the Conservative borough and the Midlands metal-working group. Only 12 hours earlier, the county council had withdrawn the supplementary rate precept and voted to increase by almost two-thirds the fares the rate was intended to cut.

After the judgment Mr Philip Williams, the county secretary and chief law officer, said subsidies to public transport in British cities were now out of line with everywhere else in the world. "To make the Greater London Council or ourselves strategic authorities for roads and transport planning and then tell us to break even on public transport is to give us an entirely conflicting set of duties."

On the strong advice of lawyers the council decided

on Monday to raise fares overall in the West Midlands passenger transport region by 67 per cent, rescind its supplementary rate precept of 14p, and reduce its planned spending by about £33m. It substituted a new supplementary rate of 5.75p, to raise about £24m to be spent on emergency road repairs, from an economic development programme and on a small increase to the passenger transport budget.

In court, the relevance of the GLC fares case was unclear. Mr Justice Woolf praised the county council for acting "reasonably once the decision in the Bromley case was known". He also pointed out the two cases were not identical.

The judge said the manifesto on which Labour took control of the West Midlands County Council last May did not relieve the council of its duty to give "full consideration" to policy changes. "If in fact no consideration is given to a decision, it is liable to be quashed by this court as a decision reached contrary to law."

On that point the High Court would have found it difficult to refuse the application by Solihull and Guest, Keen, he said. The fares cut had been decided without proper consideration.

Mr William Glover, QC, for the West Midlands, told the court that the present parliamentary debate over the Local Government Finance Bill could have some serious

consequences if any further challenge to the county's rates precept was mounted.

It might be that the 5.75p precept would be challenged. If the challenge succeeded after the beginning of the financial year 1982-83 then the provisions of the Bill before Parliament could make the life of West Midlands council impossible. The Bill takes away councils' right to levy supplementary rates. West Midlands would have no way of finding the money to repay the precept, Mr Glover said.

Mr Woolf said any challenge to the new supplementary rate should be brought before the court promptly.

Such a challenge now seems unlikely. Politicians in the Solihull and Dudley boroughs which had taken the lead in opposing the county, yesterday expressed themselves satisfied with the court's judgement. They accepted that a 5.75 rate was legitimate.

Mr D. Wyn Rees, leader of Solihull, promised that work would start immediately on repaying the supplementary rate his borough had levied to cover the precept. The average domestic ratepayers stood to gain about £20, either as a cash refund or credit against future rate liability.

West Midlands fares will rise on March 7. Under measures proposed by the county, special fares for children would also rise and concessionary rates on "travel cards" would cease.



A long photographic session was just too much for Emma Mason, aged four, when her portrait as Miss Pears, 1981, was unveiled in Newcastle yesterday. Emma, of Blyth, Northumberland, burst into tears; she soon recovered, and was as pretty as her picture again.

New insulin device may replace injections

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

Clinical trials of a device which gives diabetics a steady supply of insulin are to start soon. Preliminary tests suggest that it could eliminate some serious complications in treating diabetes.

The tests are to be done by Professor Harry Keen and Dr John Pickup, at Guy's Hospital, London, who have pioneered many advances in treating the illness. Their miniature insulin infuser, is being developed at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, North London.

The final version of the device, which is about the size of a cigarette packet and weighs 5oz, was demonstrated at the laboratories yesterday, with the experimental models tested during research.

Dr Ian Sutherland, of the Institute's design team, says it is intended for patients usually taking one or two injections a day.

A thin tube runs from the device to a needle in the skin. Loading is simple, but the doctor sets the rate at which the insulin flows, with a small rotary switch. The patient has a push-button to call for the special dose needed before a meal.

All operations are controlled by micro-electronics. The infuser lasts at least seven days between refills.

Oil project surprised conservationists

From Craig Seton, Lyndhurst

The public inquiry into Shell UK's proposal to look for oil in the New Forest was told yesterday that since a similar application by a company in Dorset 16 sites had been developed for oil exploration and four were in full production, serviced by pipelines, a gathering station and a rail terminal.

Miss Margaret Dennis, of the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), told the inquiry at Lyndhurst, Hampshire, that the council would have objected to the plans in the Purbeck area of Dorset had it known how the development would mushroom.

The inquiry, in its third week, is into Shell UK's planning application to drill an exploratory well at Denny Inclusion near Lyndhurst. The application has been approved by Hampshire County Council and the New Forest District Council subject to safeguards but is being fiercely opposed by the conservancy council. The Countryside Commission, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and at least 17 local amenity and conservation groups.

They reject Shell argument that the company would have to seek further planning permission for additional development, and insist that the application should be considered in the context of what would happen if oil was found.

Miss Dennis said the Dorset oilfield at Wyth Farm, near Wareham and the Isle of Purbeck, had resulted in no

great direct losses to the wildlife habitat but the overall effects on the environment, including the ever-increasing demand for ancillary requirements, had been much greater than expected.

"In Dorset, what was once one of the quietest and least visited parts of the country now has a semi-industrial atmosphere about it", she said.

If oil was found at Denny Inclusion, there would be well sites at half-mile intervals, water reservoirs, pipelines, access routes, a gathering station, and possibly a well-head terminal.

Mr Colin Tubbs, the conservancy council's assistant regional officer in Hampshire, said the New Forest was of international importance to nature conservation and biological science. Its heathlands, valley bogs and ancient and mainly unenclosed woodland were of "quite exceptional scientific importance". They were rich in lichens, which were susceptible to atmospheric pollution, and there were 46 species of rare or endangered plants.

Denny Inclusion was of little intrinsic value to nature conservation if considered in isolation. But it was of national importance not to expose the forest to risk of degradation, he said.

It was naive to expect an oil company to abandon a site where it had found oil, so it was difficult to view exploration without considering the possibility of production.

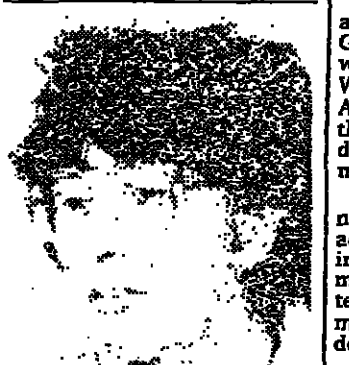
Pledge on milk deliveries

By David Hewson

The Government is pledged to do all it can to see that traditional doorstep milk delivery is not lost through price competition and imports. A report prepared by the Consumers' Committee for England and Wales and dealing with milk deliveries has been welcomed by Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

He said after its publication: "Not only is this vitally important to producers and the dairy trade as a way of maintaining consumption of milk, it also provides a valuable service to all members of the community, particularly the elderly and the housebound."

Report on the Effect of the Milk Marketing Scheme on Consumers (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, £2.10).



Mrs Doreen Hill, of Cleveland the mother of Peter Sutcliffe's last victim, who yesterday called for the dismissal of Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, and other senior officers who handled the much criticized investigation into the Yorkshire Ripper murders.

Compensation plea on wrongful jailing

By Frances Gibb

A draft Bill which would give a statutory right to compensation for wrongful imprisonment was presented by a delegation of MPs to Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC, Minister of State at the Home Office, yesterday.

The delegation was led by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, who presented the claim for compensation for the three youths wrongfully convicted of the murder of Mr Maxwell Confait, a homosexual prostitute of Catford, south-east London, in April, 1972.

Mr Price said yesterday: "Some people spend many months in prison awaiting their trial and are then found not guilty. It is only fair to innocent people who have lost many months for many months that they should receive compensation from the State."

The Bill, which Mr Price, with Mr Alf Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea, South, and Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, is urging the Home Secretary to adopt was drawn up by the National Council for Civil Liberties.

It calls for the right to compensation to be included in statute. There is a procedure for applying for ex-gratia payments from the Home Secretary but few people know of it and it is at the Home Secretary's discretion. The Bill also urges that

compensation be assessed in open court.

It further says that those remanded in custody and those convicted and then released on appeal or by the Home Secretary, should be included.

Miss Harriet Harman, the council's legal officer, who accompanied the delegation said yesterday that in 1979, 1,700 people remanded in custody before trial were acquitted, of which not one was compensated. She added that according to Home Office records, in the 10 years between 1969 and 1979, nobody acquitted at an initial trial was paid compensation. "Claims for compensation are not legally aided, which leaves most applicants to the whim of the Home Office. The level of the few payments made is often erratic and always substantially less than the damages that would be set if the matter was decided by a court."

In December, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, indicated he would make a statement on the issue. Home Office ministers are examining the policy on compensation in the light of practice over the years and with particular reference to the United Nations covenant on civil and political rights and to prospective commitments in a new article in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Courtyard scheme wins vote

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

Plans by Warneford Investments for redevelopment of buildings in Wardrobe Place, a secluded courtyard near St Paul's Cathedral, were approved by a large majority in the City of London planning committee yesterday. The only remaining hurdle for the scheme is a vote in the corporation's Court of Common Council next month.

The scheme has twice been modified to meet the needs of architectural preservation. The courtyard style of the area and the facades of some old buildings are now planned to be retained. New buildings will be designed to blend with those preserved and, Warneford Investments says, to "bring the accommodation up to acceptable modern standards".

There is still opposition among some local people. Mr Geoffrey Fox, an accountant who is chairman of the Wardrobe Place Tenants' Association, said: "The sad thing is that it would be destroying a social community."

Many of the small businesses, housed in what he admitted were "shabby buildings", would be forced to move. Mr Fox accepted that tenants had a strong financial motive for opposing the development.

Mr David Harter, opening the case for the Association of Waterloo groups at a public inquiry into the proposed redevelopment of the Coin Street site, said his clients accepted the need for some offices in the scheme.

The group has proposed a mainly residential development which they say would have far less impact on the landscape and community life than the scheme planned by Greycoat Commercial Estates.

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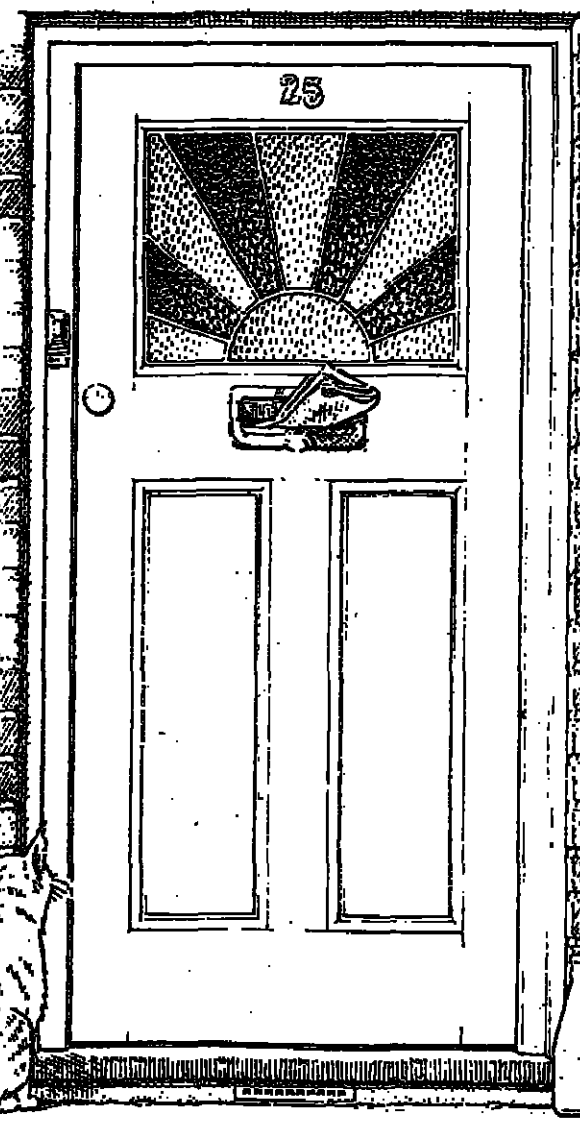
*The Annual Percentage Rate has been calculated to include estimated costs in taking the security, the valuation fees and an arrangement fee. Insurance premiums have been omitted.

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Poland: What Jaruzelski left unsaid

US reaps harvest of distrust

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 26

Neither General Wojciech Jaruzelski's dwindling host of friends nor the gathering regiment of foes would accuse him of being a brilliant orator, traditionally a suspect quality in Polish leaders.

Even so, his clenched fist, his slightly overlarge uniform, all conspire to produce a menacing effect. The audience listens much like soldiers waiting to hear whether they have been put on punishment parade.

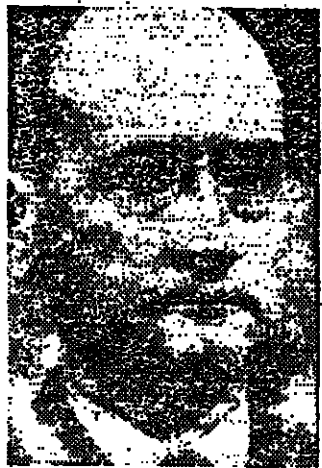
It was not surprising then, given the hypnotic and disciplinary blend, that nobody noticed the omissions from his speech yesterday to the SESM. The Polish United Workers Party technically the ruling party in the country — scarcely rated a mention.

The church was sandwiched between a reference to the need for political vigilance in journalism and the need to mobilize patriotic forces. The trade union was given much time but little substance.

The speech then barely touched on the three main "social front" issues: the pre-December 13 phrase. Instead there was a good deal of common sense about working harder, gritting teeth, getting down to the job.

Bits of the speech (the sweeping Polish destiny phrases) seemed to have been, and probably were, scripted by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister and former journalist. Other bits showed the tell-tale traces of one of the military council aides whose sentiments are close to the nationalist Grunwald faction. Other sections could have been, but certainly were not, the hard-line, hard-hat member of the Politburo.

Given the mixed pedigree of the speech, its enormous range, its tendency, like an aging mountain goat, to scramble from one political peak to another, it seems



General Jaruzelski: Effective attack on sanctions

perverse to isolate any topic. But it came as a surprise to hear what ordinary Poles thought of the speech: they were not impressed by the possibility of an easing of martial law, nor by the possible phasing out of internment.

Poles have lived through a number of changes of government and for all the military council's protestations, the Polish Government is unquestionably a different one from that which held sway seven weeks ago — and each has been accompanied by open-ended promises that collide with reality.

They were impressed by General Jaruzelski's concise attack on Western sanctions. He employed a simple enough attack that has been used often enough over the past few weeks in the press but it seemed to carry particular weight, perhaps because of the quiet expression of the general, perhaps because many Poles have given up reading newspapers.

Western sanctions, said General Jaruzelski, were not aimed at the Government but at the people. It was food blackmail. And, implicit in subsequent comments, sanctions would have precisely the reverse effect of that

intended. The greater the food shortages, the more likely unrest, the longer martial law would stay in place.

Thus (a conclusion drawn by ordinary Poles rather than the general) the Poles are being doubly punished: less food and the troops will stay. It is a curious fact that the Poles will disbelieve almost every word said by officials but almost at random, they will seize on an officially fed fact and believe it with intensity.

The American Government is particularly unpopular with Poles now. They believe the planned Hollywood spectacle on Poland, trustees and their position and they cannot reconcile their traditionally strong links with the United States with "food blackmail", though the effect of sanctions on the Polish food supply is really only peripheral.

However irrational, the concern about sanctions touches a chord. Talking to senior church advisers recently, the same view came through, albeit with more intellectual force.

The Church strategy was explained in the following way: The Primate, Archbishop Glemp, was tempering his criticism of the Polish Government with conciliatory remarks by council members — as witnessed in last Sunday's pastoral letter — were pulling no punches.

The Primate is worried that pushing General Jaruzelski too hard will either put him in a little strongly, but there is no escaping the popular recognition that the West has lost moral authority and considerable bargaining power by withholding food, in the United States case a \$700m (£270m) aid package.

It has shown itself, so a church adviser told me on Monday, shortly before General Jaruzelski made the same point publicly, that it is not really interested in the welfare of ordinary Poles, the students and destroying militia lorries and far worse.

Western sanction, coupled with a demand for the end of the martial law, though a stunningly straightforward approach, disturbs the balance of the Church strategy.

It needs Western (and, of course, especially Vatican) support in its attempt to drive hard for an end to internment. But as long as ordinary Poles believe that President Reagan is withholding food from Poles, the Church cannot be seen to be siding with a sanctions policy.

Moreover, a rapid end to martial law, though theoretically desired by the Church, presents more problems than a solution. Who is to replace the military leadership? The answer would probably be that the still relatively moderate General Jaruzelski would be replaced by hardliners of one sort or another, people with no innate sympathy for the Church. The Church only has a mediating role because the present Government recognizes its limitations; the same might not be said of a successor government.

It is Western sanctions that are confusing the issue for the Church and other Poles. Not many people were pleased to see the Soviet Union exploit Poland's food and political crisis so quickly: a conveyer more than a hundred food lorries arrived in Warsaw, days after the proclamation of martial law.

General Jaruzelski made repeated references in his speech to "our reliable, infallible friends", the Russians. Infinitely more so, putting it a little strongly, but there is no escaping the popular recognition that the West has lost moral authority and considerable bargaining power by withholding food, in the United States case a \$700m (£270m) aid package.

It has shown itself, so a church adviser told me on Monday, shortly before General Jaruzelski made the same point publicly, that it is not really interested in the welfare of ordinary Poles, the students and destroying militia lorries and far worse.

Thorn tells Ten to talk hard cash

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 26

The European Commission is pressing ahead to fix the agricultural prices for the 1982-83 season despite the failure of Foreign Ministers yesterday to agree on guidelines for a reform of the Community's agricultural policy and finances.

The price proposals are expected to be ready by tomorrow evening, even though there is every chance that Britain will block their adoption until it is satisfied by the budget contribution terms it is offered.

In an angry statement today, Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, said, "The ten should realize that tactical considerations had to give way before the need for a strategy that would help to resolve the great problems confronting the Community."

He agreed to make a further tour of the European capitals with Mr Leo Tindemans, the president of the Council and to prepare a report for the next European summit in March.

"I have done this because I do not want to resign myself to a setback which would shake the Community edifice to the foundations," the statement said. He did not expect his mission to succeed, however, and the best that could be hoped for was that the summit might find itself ready to reach agreement.

If not, it would be necessary to speak of the Community's incapacity to take decisions. This was even more serious because it came at a time when the economic and political situation demanded European solidarity more than ever.

Disappointment over the failure of yesterday's talks was not confined to Mr Thorn. Most delegations had arrived at the meeting believing that agreement was possible. The inability to find common ground on how to give Britain the demanded extra financial help had not been foreseen.

For agreement to be possible during the European summit the member countries would have to stop talking vaguely about guidelines and come down to defining terms in hard cash.

When the European summit is held, the heads of government will thus have a clear idea of what is involved financially. They will also have an idea of the importance among their lobbies at the danger of agricultural prices being held up while a solution is found to the British budget problem.

The EEC foreign ministers decided today to take the European Parliament to the European Court over the way it implemented the 1982 Community budget.

They agreed, however, that for the moment member states would pay their budget contributions according to the levels decided by the Parliament.

What will be at issue, is whether Parliament has the right to reclassify items in the budget from the obligatory payment sector, over which it has no control, to the non-obligatory payment sector, over which it does have control.

Portuguese stuck, page 7

Leading article, page 11



SPD tries to avoid missile split

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Jan 26 West German Social Democrat leaders today published a resolution on medium-range missiles which is designed to avert a serious clash between its anti-missile faction and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, at the party congress in April.

The document proposed that a final decision be put off until a special congress in the autumn of 1983. By then, it is hoped, the Geneva missile negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union should have produced results and there should be a clearer idea of how many new Nato cruise and Pershing missiles need to be stationed.

The resolution warns the Government and Nato that deployment should not be regarded as automatic.

It calls for a moratorium on short-range weapons during the Geneva negotiations, urging that other medium-range weapons — American, British and French be drawn progressively into negotiations.

Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, predicted an overwhelming majority for the resolution, basing his optimism on talks with leaders of regional and local party branches at the weekend.

Letter from India

Saving the tiger in Jungle Jim's park

My tiger burned bright. Revealed in the headlights' glare he bounded across the track in lazy majesty and slid, silky and sinewy, into the blackness of the jungle. To spy a tiger in the wild is a lucky and thrilling experience. To hear his threatening growl from the tall dry grass is to have all the senses suddenly and shiveringly sharp.

Like all the best quests the search for a tiger offers the prospect of a glimpse of a creature legendary, beautiful and rare; and only a small chance of success.

One of the happy aspects of seeking a tiger today is that the beast is no longer on the edge of extinction. Until recently it was a close thing. Tiger-hunters used to be a style of aristocratic hooliganism in India, and royals, viceroys, rajahs, lords and various burra sahibs revelled in blasting away from their howdahs.

Although they killed many tigers they were not the most destructive offenders. Much damage was caused by the clearing of forests for agricultural and industrial use and the development of hunting holidays with a tiger kill almost guaranteed.

About 70 years ago the tiger population of India was calculated at 30,000. In 1960, when the Duke of Edinburgh became the last member of the British Royal Family to fall a tiger, the count was under 3,000. Ten years ago there were fewer than 2,000.

Fortunately the Indian Government banned hunting and established Project Tiger to save the animal. Today 11 reserves provide a home for nearly 800 tigers. Most, however still live in forests outside the reserves and the total tiger population has increased to more than 3,000.

One reserve is Corbett Park, on the edge of the Himalayas, 140 miles north-east of Delhi. It takes its name from Jim Corbett, a genuine *Boy's Own Paper* jungle Jim who hunted man-eaters in the parts from 1907 to 1939, and whose stirring tales are the

essence of adventure and a vanished era. As it happened, I was driving at dusk to dine with Brijendra Singh, a tiger expert who recently trapped and drug a tiger, a musk deer (and installed it in Lucknow Zoo), when I saw my first tiger. He was leaping across the road, presumably going out to dinner too.

Next morning, mounted on elephants, we found the bloodstained place where a tiger had killed in the night. Pug snout and the drag mark of a dead deer led us across a river and we found the hooves and skull in a patch of tall whispering grass beneath some trees.

We stopped and peered. From the grass a tigress began a low and menacing growl. Had she been alone she might have broken cover. But, close by her, was a cub, still and silent, its face was just visible. Rather than irritate the tigress, we moved off.

Later that day, while brewing tea beside a lake, we heard five shots. Shooting is forbidden in the park and our tiger expert took three of us to investigate.

Half a mile away we encountered a number of men. They were big game: a divisional commissioner, two magistrates, a police superintendent and, in uniform, a police inspector. We were met by Mr W. Botha, a member of the law enforcement forces, who had been shot.

A hundred yards away we found the fresh blood of a shot deer and a blood trail leading into the jungle. The shooting party was persuaded to explore it all to park officials. They sat on a stone as darkness fell and, by the light of a camp fire, wrote out statements saying one of the youths had fired the gun accidentally.

Quite close by a tiger started roaring and in the distance elephants bellowed. The pens of the upholders of the law squeaked. Somewhere out in the jungle a wounded deer was bleeding.

Trevor Fishlock

Mitterrand being held up by Socialists on banks

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 26

Discussion of the second Nationalization Bill began this afternoon in the National Assembly before sparsely assembled benches. The marathon debate on the first Bill last year, was marked by epic clashes between the Socialist majority and the Opposition. But even now the atmosphere remains tense.

Sparks began to fly from the very opening of the debate. When M. Michel Charzat, the *Rapporteur* of the special committee on nationalizations, insisted that "only an infinitesimal minority, a caste increasingly foreign to the national interest, can try to delay the inevitable once again."

This second lap of the nationalization obstacle course, as some commentators call it, was made necessary by the objections of the Constitutional Council to some of the provisions of the first Bill. They included compensation for the share-

holders; and the need for the Government to submit a new Bill, which took these objections into account. But this time it is not the Opposition but the massive Socialist majority in Parliament, which is giving the Government trouble. Last week, it vented its rancour over the postponement of the first Bill in sharp criticism of the Constitutional Council and the constitution, and showed that it did not intend to toe the line weekly but wanted to assert its own more radical point of view. It disagreed with the procedure adopted by the Cabinet, of submitting an entirely new Bill. It would have preferred nationalization to be put through by decree. It opposed the postponement of the takeover of 18 private banks not quoted on the Stock Exchange until the end of next year. To allow for a committee of experts to assess their value for compensation.

Bankers hopeful on Warsaw's debts

From Peter Norman, Frankfurt, Jan 26

West German bankers are becoming increasingly confident that Poland will be able to sign the agreement rescheduling its 1981 commercial bank debt by the end of February.

Last week the Poles informed their leading Western bank creditors that they would pay all the interest owing on the 1981 debt by the middle of next month, so that the agreement rescheduling \$2,400m (£1,260m) of debt could be signed before March.

Since then, more Polish interest payments have come to light and German bankers now estimate that Warsaw has only to pay \$250m to clear its 1981 slate, compared with \$350m a month ago.

The Poles have not disclosed how they are getting the money to pay their debt. It is thought that some hard currency may be coming from renewed exports to the West. The Soviet Union may also be helping indirectly by supplying Poland with commodities and semi-finished products on credit, removing

some of the country's requirement for Western goods. It is also suspected that Poland may now be switching its hard currency resources to pay its Western commercial bank creditors instead of its official Government creditors in the West.

Some German bankers argue that the Nato decision to suspend for the time being negotiations on rescheduling Poland's 1982 debt to Western governments could have increased the country's willingness to settle with its private bank creditors in the West.

The banks understand that the private debt is not covered by the Nato declaration, in which case Poland could apply to reschedule its 1982 commercial bank debts once the 1981 debt restructuring agreement is signed.

Poland's 1982 rescheduling needs have been estimated at \$4,700m of which roughly \$2,500m are credits guaranteed by Western governments, while the rest are

unguaranteed credits owing to banks.

Before the imposition of martial law, Poland said it would need financial assistance totalling \$9,500m this year.

Madrid: The Spanish Government confirmed today that it is awaiting a reply to a request presented by Señor Santiago Perinat, the Spanish Ambassador in Moscow, to begin negotiations for the possible purchase of between 1,000 million and 3,000 million cubic metres of natural gas a year from the Soviet Union (Harry Debelius writes).

The Spanish Government's plan to link up with the pipeline which will supply other Western European countries with gas from Siberia became official on December 18 when it was approved at a Cabinet meeting here.

Berlin: An editorial in the East German *Neues Deutschland* says today that speeches and resolutions made at the Italian Communist Party's recent central

committee meeting "denied the decades-long peaceful policies of the Soviet Union". It rebuts the Italian statement that events in Poland showed that the democratic forces of the 1917 Russian Revolution were "exhausted". (Reuter reports).

Wellington: New Zealand is to remain in close consultation with its Western allies over measures to be taken to deal with Poland. Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, said tonight after the first Cabinet meeting of the year. (W. P. Reeves writes).

New Zealand overseas representatives would support efforts by like-minded countries to bring to world attention the violation of human rights and acts of aggression.

Rome: The Italian Communist party has accused Moscow of trying to turn the pages of history back and set up again one centre to control world communism and national liberation movements (John Earle writes).

Stepson confronts von Bulow

From Our Correspondent, Newport, Rhode Island, Jan 26

Mr Claus von Bulow faced his accuser today when his stepson, Prince Alex von Auersperg, told the Newport court of his suspicions concerning his mother's illness. Mrs Maria "Sunny" von Bulow, a Pittsburg utilities heiress, has been in an insulin coma since December, 1980.

Mr von Bulow, a former London barrister in the same chambers as Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, is charged with trying to kill his wife with insulin injections in 1979 and 1980. He was charged after his stepson had hired a lawyer and a private investigation was started because he said he was not convinced his stepmother was brought on by natural causes.

Prince Alex, aged 22 told a pre-trial hearing today how he had gone to the von Bulow Newport mansion, Clerendon Court, with a private detective and a locksmith and found a black washbag containing needles in his stepfather's locked cupboard. He recalled seeing capsules in little plastic packages and hypodermic needles in the bags.

Mr von Bulow sat staring at Prince Alex, his emotionless face cupped in his hands. The defence is attempting to suppress the evidence of the black bag and needles, one with a trace of insulin, because it claims it was obtained illegally, without a search warrant. It failed yesterday in a motion to have the indictment dismissed because it was effectively a private prosecution engineered by the family.

Mr Richard Kuh, Prince Alex's lawyer yesterday, the stand and admitted he had spent several hundred hours over nearly 13 months investigating the case. He said he initiated the investigation after Prince Alex and his sister, Princess Ala, told him of their suspicions of the



The listener: Mr Claus von Bulow deep in concentration during the court hearing yesterday.

two comes their mother had suffered.

He also revealed after the Rhode Island authorities had started investigating the case, Prince Alex had told him he had found a broken crystal walking stick handle in the drawer in the family's Manhattan apartment. Mr Kuh said he followed up the evidence because Mrs von Bulow had been admitted to hospital with a head wound and what was diagnosed as an overdose of aspirin. She recovered and never accused her husband. "The speculation was without foundation," Mr Kuh said.

The ruling over the argument of the admissibility of the black bag is expected

tomorrow. Another defence action to exclude statement Mr von Bulow gave to police before he was indicted is still to be argued before the trial begins.

The case, already in its third week without a word of evidence put to the jury, has rocked the aristocratic summer colony of Newport (Reuter reports). The trial is due to last two months.

Mr Herald Fahringer, the defence lawyer, yesterday accused Mr Kuh of being "up to his ears" in what should have been a police inquiry and of having a financial incentive to find evidence against Mr von Bulow, a former aide of J. Paul Getty.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Smoother seas ahead for liner

Los Angeles — It looks like smooth sailing at long last for the Queen Mary, the old liner which has been tossed in rough financial waters for 14 years since it ended its life on the high seas (Ivor Davis writes).

The ship, now a tourist attraction in Long Beach, California, is to become the centrepiece for a \$1,000m (£530m) leisure complex.

The Wrather Corporation, which has taken over the running of the ship, said it was seeking financial partners to build a marina, a cruise ship terminal, three hotels with a total of 3,000 rooms, office buildings, shops and restaurants. All will be built around the Queen Mary and the Spruce Goose, the famous flying boat that once was owned and flown by Howard Hughes.

The Queen Mary sailed into Long Beach in December 1967. Despite high hopes by the City of Long Beach, the ship's owners, it never made money as a tourist attraction although millions visited it. Last year Mr Jack Wrather, a developer and film producer, signed a 66-year lease to operate the liner which is currently a hotel and convention centre.

Iran insurgents take town

Scores of guerrillas swept out of a forest stronghold near the Caspian Sea and captured part of the Iranian resort town of Amol in a drawn-out battle in which at least 20 people were killed (according to Iranian reports monitored in London).

A local policeman contacted by telephone said attackers belonged to a little known group called "Sarbedaran", a Farsi word for "The Hand", taken from the nationalist group which opposed the early Arab rulers of Iran.

Tehran radio, said 16 "counter-revolutionaries" were killed in the attack.

Atlanta trial scope widens



The prosecution in the Atlanta murder trial has been allowed by the judge to bring in evidence linking Wayne Williams (above) to 10 more killings in the city (Michael Hamlyn writes). The prosecution is planning to show that there was a system, or pattern, to the killings that will enable it to tie Mr Williams even closer to the two murders he is charged with.

The victims are all young black males, who were strangled. The deaths are linked to the accused by the same kind of evidence — dog hairs and carpet fibres — that have already been discussed in court.

Botha's reply delivered

Johannesburg. — South Africa has presented its reply to the Western proposals for the construction of an independent Namibia (Michael Hamlyn writes). The terms of the reply had been discussed at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister. Its contents were not revealed.

The five Western nations which are coordinating the negotiations on Namibia have already received the response of Swapo, the guerrilla movement fighting for the independence of Namibia, and the front-line black states which support it.

Nimeiry picks party chief

Khartoum. — President Nimeiry of Sudan has appointed Colonel Awad Malik, as secretary of the Sudanese Socialist Union, the country's only political party.

He replaces General Abdulmajid Khalil, who was dismissed from the post last Sunday, and was yesterday also dismissed from his posts of First Vice-President, Defence Minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Colonel Malik, was on Sunday named rapporteur of a committee set up to consider reorganization of the party.

Ministers quit

Quito. — Ecuador's Public Works Minister and Social Welfare Minister and Social Welfare Minister and several officials have resigned in the worst political crisis since the country returned to democratic rule in August, 1979. More are expected to follow.

Begin survives Knesset attack over Sinai cash

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Jan 26

The Israeli ruling coalition today narrowly defeated a Knesset motion of no confidence which strongly criticized its handling of the evacuation of the remaining one-third of occupied Sinai. The area is due to be handed back to Egypt in April. The Knesset vote was 55-52.

It was the third no confidence motion which Mr Menachem Begin's government has defeated since being returned to power last June. Thirteen MPs were absent, but whips dropped efforts to force a postponement after it became clear that the majority was secure.

The motion by the Labour party came after the Government's surprise defeat yesterday on a resolution seeking to cancel the large compensation payments which Ministers recently agreed to make to settlers leaving Sinai.

It is understood that after initial confusion, Government sources are confident that they are under no legal compulsion to scrap the revised compensation agreement, which was recently increased by 20 per cent to a total of more than £136m.

In yesterday's debate, the Labour Opposition accused the Sinai settlers of extorting excessive compensation from the State. It also denounced recent breaches of the law by the Sinai settlers and called on the Government to take immediate action against the offenders.

At almost the same time as the voting was taking place in Jerusalem, 15 more families of militants arrived in Yamit to join the protest being organized by the Stop the Withdrawal from the Sinai campaign.

The new protestors joined more than 1,000 illegal squatters who have recently moved into the desert area as part of a plan to prevent the April evacuation going ahead. Other militants are scheduled to arrive soon to take up residence in any property abandoned by those settlers who have decided to leave peacefully.

In recent weeks the anti-withdrawal campaigners have received a boost with the open support of two deputy Ministers, Rabbi Haim Druckman, from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and David Shiffman, from the Ministry of Transport.

Neither has yet been disciplined by the Prime Minister, although Rabbi Druckman is now involved in the United States propaganda tour designed to raise funds for the campaign.

Mubarak to maintain peace effort

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Jan 26

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt today reaffirmed his Government's commitment to non-alignment and pledged to strive relentlessly to draw Arab states and the Palestinians into peace with Israel.

In his 30-minute address, on being elected chairman of the ruling National Democratic Party, he set Egypt's priorities as peace, economic development and reconstruction, and said he would focus on those during forthcoming talks in Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the United States.

Although his election was a foregone conclusion since he was the only candidate, Mr Mubarak chose to repeat his theme of non-alignment a day after Cairo announced that 66 Soviet technicians would arrive in Egypt soon to help on industrial projects set up with Soviet assistance in the 1960s.

Some 700 Soviet technicians were expelled from Egypt by President Anwar Sadat in September soon after he ejected the Ambassador and six top diplomats on charges of involvement in Christian-Muslim strife here. That move was considered the lowest point in Egypt's relations with Moscow, already strained after Mr Sadat expelled 17,000 military advisers in 1972.

In his address Mr Mubarak did not touch on relations with either superpower, but he said: "Egypt's strategic interests lie in its ties with Arab, African and Islamic nations, but that does not prevent close and deep relations with European states, the United States and others. He emphasized: "The philosophy of non-alignment is best suited to our interests and our principles."

In the late years of his rule, President Sadat had tilted Egypt more to the West, burning bridges with Arab countries and earning the vicious criticism of Muslim fundamentalists. Mr Mubarak has been very careful to emphasize a different approach.

□ President Mubarak also reaffirmed his intention to introduce big economic reforms (Reuter reports).

Egypt takes hard line, Israel says

From Our Own Correspondent Jerusalem, Jan 26

The Israeli Government today accused Egypt of deliberately hardening its stand on the unresolved issue of Palestinian autonomy. The claim was made on the eve of the second Middle East summit by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

At a briefing for foreign journalists, a senior Government official alleged that the change in Egypt's stand had been taking place gradually since the murder of President Sadat last year, but only recently had surfaced in public statements by Egyptian ministers.

The official also accused the Egyptians of deliberately stalling the deadlocked autonomy negotiations in an attempt to avoid reaching any agreement before April 26, the date on which Israel is due to hand back the remaining 12,000 square miles of occupied Sinai.

The Israelis are particularly angered by Egypt's recent insistence that any tripartite agreement on autonomy must first be acceptable to the Palestinians themselves. They claim that this is a contradiction of the attitude taken by President Sadat, who said only that Egypt would try to convince the Palestinians to accept any autonomy agreement.

The latest exchange of harsh words over the vexed autonomy issue has deepened pessimism in diplomatic circles about Mr Haig's chances of bridging the wide gap which still divides Israel and Egypt after talks which have continued sporadically for more than two years.

Tomorrow Israeli ministers will be pressing Mr Haig to discover what lies behind the alleged hardening of Egypt's position when he flies on to Cairo on Thursday. Official sources have indicated that no further change in Israel's proposed autonomy model, recently outlined in a classified document handed to the Americans, can be expected.

Prior to Mr Haig's arrival in Jerusalem, American sources have already indicated that he does not intend to put forward any personal blueprint for resolving the autonomy deadlock.

Edward Mortimer, page 10

Finland warms to change

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki, Jan 26

Dr Mauno Koivisto was today elected as Finland's President for the next six years in the 301-strong Council of Electors, where he received 167 votes.

He was supported by the Eurocommunist wing of the Communist Party and the lone Rural Party elector, as well as his own 145 electors, who are Social Democrats and Independents.

Mr Johannes Virolainen (Centre Party) 53, Mr Kalevi Kivistö (Communist) 11, Mr Jan-Magnus Jansson (Swedish People's Party) 11 and Mrs Helvi Sipilä (Liberal) one vote.

Mr Koivisto's victory was clear after his huge popular vote, and his election as President Urho Kekkonen's successor marks an important change in the country's political and social climate. The two men belong to different generations.

Mr Kekkonen, aged 81, who was forced to resign because of ill health, came from a generation born in the Czarist tradition and which lived through the first difficult decades of Finland's independence. This made him, especially during his last years, a semi-monarch with imperious habits and suave couriers.

He was also a very strong leader, and used his power to subdue opponents in a tough way. His vengeful way of keeping order became a burden, although his prestige was so great that few cared to oppose him.

Mr Koivisto, aged 57, is in contrast an extremely homespun and down to earth Social Democrat and it almost impossible to imagine him trying to exert his will over all matters in the republic. He is closely identified with the democratic change towards Scandinavia equality and economic growth which has dominated the country's postwar development. He has also remained aloof from everyday political infighting, which was Mr Kekkonen's Home Terrain.

The election is also seen as the return to normality after the severe war years. Mr Kekkonen's election in 1956 was free and hard fought. But it was part of the postwar adjustment. After that, Mr Kekkonen was always overwhelming, although the beginning of his rule was marred by Soviet interventions.

The election this time was conducted with no Soviet interference, and Mr Koivisto



In their prime: Mr Mikhail Suslov, right, at the November, 1959, parade to commemorate the Bolshevik revolution with Nikita Khrushchev, left, and K. E. Voroshilov, respectively Prime Minister and President at the time.

Suslov's death complicates Kremlin succession

From John Morrison of Reuters, Moscow, Jan 26

The death yesterday of Mr Mikhail Suslov removes a key figure from the Soviet power structure and may considerably complicate the eventual succession to President Leonid Brezhnev.

For years Western analysts and scholars have identified Mr Suslov as the power behind the throne, the kingmaker in a series of political struggles at the top and a pillar of Marxist-Leninist orthodoxy.

Western analysts trying to speculate about the future of the Soviet leadership had assumed until today that Mr Suslov would play the same

role of kingmaker when the Brezhnev era ended as he did when Nikita Khrushchev was removed from power in 1964. As Second Secretary to Mr Brezhnev, he would have expected to have a powerful voice in deciding who would succeed the party leader and head of state.

Nobody else among the surviving 13 members of the Politburo is left with the authority to guarantee a smooth transition of power to a new leader. The next most senior party figure is Mr Andrei Kirilenko, who, like Mr Brezhnev, is 75 and over the years has been

frequently mentioned as a possible successor.

Mr Kirilenko, up to now the third-ranking party secretary after Mr Brezhnev and Mr Suslov, has deputized for him and the extent to which the party should tolerate or encourage Russian nationalism. Western analysts here believe it is unlikely that his death will lead to any sudden thaw in the rigidity of Kremlin attitudes.

Other officials who have worked under Mr Suslov's overall guidance are well into their seventies and are unlikely to start pressing for innovation. They include Mr

relations with other communist parties.

It was he who generally had the final say on sensitive questions such as the treatment of the Stalinist past in art and the extent to which the party should tolerate or encourage Russian nationalism. Western analysts here believe it is unlikely that his death will lead to any sudden thaw in the rigidity of Kremlin attitudes.

Other officials who have worked under Mr Suslov's overall guidance are well into their seventies and are unlikely to start pressing for innovation. They include Mr

Boris Ponomarev, aged 76, a close colleague of Mr Suslov and a candidate member of the Politburo, who is party secretary responsible for relations with Communist and left-wing parties outside the Soviet block.

Another official who may gain in influence is Mr Mikhail Zimyanin, aged 67, a party secretary who is responsible for propaganda.

If his death does soften the Kremlin's ideological attitudes in any way, the result is not likely to become evident for some time. — Reuter.

Obituary, page 12

US snubs Third World news agencies

From Stephen Downer, Mexico City, Jan 26

A Unesco conference on the International Programme for the Development of Communications, has agreed unanimously to create news agencies in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The 35-nation conference meeting in Asagucio decided yesterday to allocate \$310,000 (£481,000) to the projects this year. The United States supported the projects but refused to contribute to the general fund that will finance them. American government officials and Western pub-

lishers feel that the projects will endanger the free flow of international information.

Mr William Harley, the United States delegate, said that his country had achieved its four targets: private sector participation and bilateral aid had been permitted; the unity of the Western block had been preserved; and a dialogue with moderate African states had been maintained.

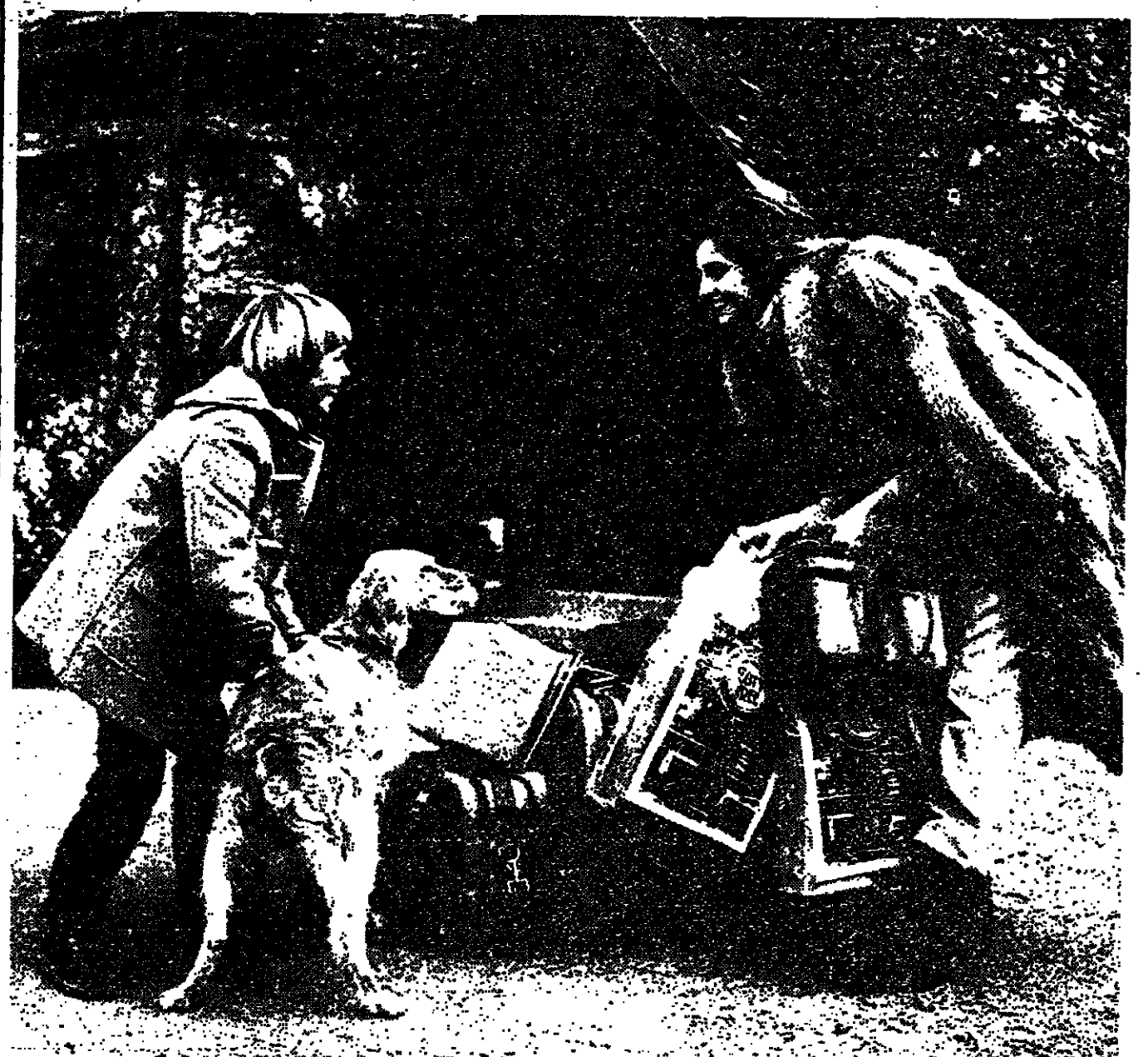
He added: "The main point was financing. Our whole programme is based on a

bilateral approach. It is unlikely that the United States will be giving funds to the special account."

Soviet block and Third World delegates had a long meeting over the weekend before deciding not to press a demand that all Unesco media projects be financed through the agency's general fund. Such a move, according to Mr Harley, would have banned bilateral aid.

The conference agreed to spend \$245,000 on feasibility studies for projects in Africa

□ Kampala: Mr David Anyoti, Uganda's Information Minister, accusing the foreign press of extreme hostility towards Uganda, said today his Government would in future accredit only "qualified, objective and bona fide journalists" (Reuter reports). They must have an established office in Kampala and not in Nairobi or any other neighbouring country. "Such persons should not be a stranger, or freelance journalist who files for other news services, and proof of this must be given," he added.



What makes an airline human

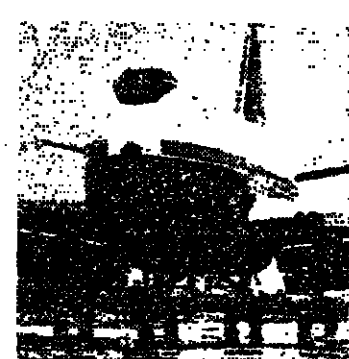
With Pakistan International Airlines, it's just like coming home.

All great airlines are similar in many ways. The need for a high degree of professionalism, advanced technology, efficiency and reliability are common to all. Few airlines achieve the truly highest standards because the one factor, above all others, which makes this possible is intangible. Ambience.

Pakistan International Airlines is one such airline... it's just like coming home. When next you fly to America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa or Asia, fly Pakistan International Airlines.



Great people to fly with



Peacemaker at UN will be an active diplomat

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Jan 26

The new Secretary-General of the United Nations looks forward to a time when he or his successor is deeply involved in the peacemaking process of the Middle East. "I will sound to you mainly over-optimistic," he told *The Times* today. "But I have the hope that at some stage the good offices of the Secretary-General, perhaps not during my mandate, will be sought for the solution of the Middle Eastern problem."

"I think that at some stage when one has to work on a comprehensive solution, the presence of the United Nations will be indispensable, and the first phase of this presence would be a kind of personal diplomacy by the Secretary-General."

Speaking during the first interview he has given to an overseas newspaper since his election, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is 62, made it clear that he regards his role very much as that of an active diplomat. "I intend to maintain, and if possible increase, the United Nations Secretary-General's involvement," he declared. He has suited his actions to his words by sending under secretary-generals as his personal representatives around the world.

He is sending Mr Brian Urquhart, the British Under Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, to Cyprus and then Lebanon, and another under secretary-general to Honduras to assemble a report on human rights problems in the area. He will shortly announce the name of his special representative to Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan nomination he regards as particularly important, since he himself was once Kurt Waldheim's Afghanisthan negotiator. It is apparent that the existence of a United Nations presence in the country is the only point of diplomatic pressure left against the Russians.

As well as these visible signs of activity, the new Secretary-General is keen on what he calls "silent diplomacy." Every day, you know, I am working on some silent diplomacy, either on Namibia or the Middle East or in Cyprus. I have spent my time since I have been Secretary-General doing this kind of thing. Working silently to find peaceful solutions to all our problems.

On one problem, however, the diplomacy has not been particularly silent. He has

become involved in a sharp exchange of letters with the South African Foreign Minister, an exchange which he broke off after the third letter.

He admitted that he does not know whether he can now be of use in the Namibia issue, but he says: "The only thing I want is not to be responsible for my being useless."

"I can be an independent man. Even if the General Assembly or Security Council pass resolutions against one country or another I can still preserve my impartiality in order to be helpful." That being the case, he is anxious not to make moral judgments.

He hoped that this image of the Secretary-General as an active diplomat, and as a man of unquestioned impartiality and fairness would go some way to enhancing the image of the United Nations in the eyes of the world.

"I know very well that the United Nations has not a very good image abroad," he admits, "mainly among the Western countries. There are many reasons for those countries to consider that the United Nations is not as efficient as it should be."

Up the road with 600 Salvadoran guerrillas

From Paul Ellman, Usulután province, El Salvador, Jan 26

The last sign of the Salvadoran Army had been 30 minutes before a checkpoint manned by languid soldiers with only a perfunctory interest in a traveller's destination. The rutted road had become a boulder-strewn track and the bustle of the flatlands in the midst of the cotton harvest had given way to the stillness of mountains covered in brush and parched trees.

Suddenly, two columns of guerrillas appeared, jogging each other's weapons over their shoulders. This was the other side of what passes for the front line in the two-year-old civil war which has claimed more than 50,000 lives. A "liberated zone" controlled by the Revolutionary Army of the People (ERP), the biggest of the five guerrilla groups operating under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front.

The guerrillas were friendly and relaxed, more interested in scrounging cigarettes than establishing the identity of the stranger in their midst. Their weapons were a mixture of M16 carbines, which the United States claims came from North Vietnam, and G3 assault rifles, supplied by West Germany to El Salvador security forces. Their dress was a combination of olive green fatigues and blue jeans, and in the case of two girls, pink and blue party frocks.

They said that the rest of the journey to their camp would have to be on foot and set off up the mountainside, pausing only to allow an out-of-control journalist to catch his breath.

The camp is the ERP's operational headquarters for the south-eastern front, a prosperous farming area some 100 miles from the capital. It is strategically located on a narrow strip of land, across which small boats slip at night from Nicaragua to drop supplies for the guerrillas at the scores of inlets along the coast.

The camp has been operational for a year and last October successfully beat off an attack by Government forces spearheaded by the elite Atlacatl battalion, which has undergone training by United States Special Forces from the Panama Canal Zone.

Despite the severity of guerrilla life and a dreary diet of beans, rice and tortillas occasionally supplemented with meat, morale among the 600 guerrillas in the camp appeared high, as did discipline.

The guerrillas' commander on this section of the front is Comandante Juan Ramón Medrano (nom-de-guerre Comrade Baltasar) a former socialist student aged 31, who has been a full-time revolutionary since the mid-1970s. Señor Medrano is also a member of the 15-man Unified Revolutionary Directorate of the Guerrilla Front, its principal policy-making body.

A sharp-featured man in a floppy grey hat, he sat with his hands clasped, talking about the war and the guerrillas' political aims, offering a surprisingly moderate set of goals for a man to live in a Marxist-Maoist officially espoused by the front.

On the future of free enterprise, for example, Señor Medrano observed: "We'll have to allow private enterprise. Otherwise, how can we attract foreign investment?"

Asked about relations with the United States, which is providing economic and military support to the junta headed by President José Napoleón Duarte, he said: "We want to live in mutual respect with all countries, including the United States."

When it was pointed to him that his remarks were a far cry from other pronouncements by the guerrilla leadership, Señor Medrano's response was a dry laugh. He also made it clear that whatever plans might exist for El Salvador in the event of a Government victory, the guerrillas intended to do their utmost to disrupt elections scheduled for March 28.

The elections are seen as vital to the future of United States policy in Central America and were endorsed at the last summit meeting of the Organization of American States.

Time on side of boy who likes US life

From Christopher Thomas, Chicago, Jan 26

Walter Polovchak does not seem the kind of youth who could rouse the Soviet Union into sending a formal protest note to the United States Government.

He leads a quiet, ordinary life on the Ukrainian Side, one of those miracles of urban, ethnic America — a decent neighbourhood. It is his desire to stay there that has created a small but niggling diplomatic incident between the superpowers.

The Soviet Union insists that he return to his native Ukraine. And America is not prepared to make him go. He has become a cause célèbre in the eyes of the United States news media, a symbol of the American belief that "here is better."

Walter, aged 14, left the Ukraine with his parents at the beginning of 1980 and moved into the Chicago ethnic neighbourhood. Anna and Michael Polovchak immediately hated it and when they decided to go home, Walter ran away with his father, a minor, and that is the heart of the problem.

But he is now also a naturalized American. When he refused to go home he quickly achieved political asylum, and citizenship was a natural corollary.

The Soviet authorities have consistently supported his parents' claim that as a minor Walter should be sent home. American public opinion at first agreed that the family should not be broken up; then last August the parents suddenly returned to the Soviet Union and the mood turned promptly against them.

Initially Walter stayed in Chicago with an older cousin and was then assigned to



Walter Polovchak: "I don't want to go to jail."

foster parents in the heart of the city's Ukrainian ethnic community. He remains with them now in their flat, displaying his Americanism by playing football and declaring emphatically: "I do not want to go home to jail!"

The Ukrainian community has rallied in every material way to defend his right to stay in the country. The legal fight with counsel representing his parents has probably already been won but it is not over: Mr and Mrs Polovchak are now attempting to reverse the granting of political asylum and naturalization because Walter is a minor.

They might have a point. What they do not have is time. Under Illinois state rules Walter could cease to be a minor at 16 if he is independently supported. And in the overcrowded judicial system of the United States it should not prove impossible to protract events for a few more years.

Paul Getty museum strikes gold

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Jan 26

The \$700m (£350m) worth of oil stocks left to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California, is now worth almost \$1,300m, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

After more than five years of legal wrangles the Getty legacy is expected to be granted probate soon and it will provide about \$54m a year for the museum to spend. This will make the museum, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean, the richest in the world.

Once probate is granted lawyers and executors handling the complex can expect to earn about \$25.4m, says the newspaper.

Last year it took \$4.5m to operate the museum which the oil magnate, who died in 1976, never saw. Now the trustees and Mr Stephen Garrett, the museum's British director, are wrestling with the problems of how to spend the more than \$50m each year.

Mr Garrett has said he wants to avoid "arrogant flaunting and dollar waving" with the Getty money.

The *Los Angeles Times* notes that just how much the museum will actually get is not certain because the market value of the 9.3 million shares of Getty oil stock has generally fallen over the past several months.

At today's market price the stock is worth nearly \$550m and continues to pay dividends of about \$5.6m every three months.

The rest of the museum's expected income is made up of about \$714m in investments that are earning interest daily, so the newspaper estimates the expected windfall will add up to \$1,260m.

Journalists barred by E. Germany

From David Blow, Vienna, Jan 26

The East German authorities have refused permission for Western correspondents to attend the federal synod of the country's Lutheran Church next week at Herrnhut, in Oberlausitz. The decision mainly affects West German correspondents and is set back coming so soon after the West German Chancellor's visit to East Germany.

No reason has been given, but it clearly has to do with the Lutheran Church's embarrassing open criticism of militarism in East Germany and its advocacy of community service as an alternative to military service.

Frustrated in his desire to carry out trials of former extreme left wingers in the provinces — as follow-up to the trial of the "Gang of Four" which ended a year ago yesterday — Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping is organizing a big investigation of the Communist Party's 39 million members.

Faced with recalcitrance and passivity among many middle-ranking officials, Deng, the effective head of the party, is determined to prune the bureaucracy and expel those who oppose his

mainly liberal, right-leaning policies for the economy and society in general.

This is believed to be the reason why Mr Deng did not show up at New Year celebrations organized by the leadership. By staying away, he ensured that Vice-Chairman Li Xianian, the most prominent survivor of the last Politburo headed by Mao Tse-tung, would deliver the party promise of a purge.

Mr Li is thought to be unhappy about some of Mr Deng's economic policies, which are the opposite of those which he helped to plan and implement in Mao's lifetime. But Mr Deng evidently still needs Mr Li's expertise and authority.

The way that we love and make love nowadays is meant to be freely. We are in what is called "the sexual revolution." The old rules of a Victorian morality have been abolished. We are now free to do what we want.

But how free is our new freedom? I believe that a new sexual orthodoxy has grown up. Imperceptibly it shapes our lives, just as strongly as the old morality. The new rules exist, even if they are not acknowledged as such.

This new orthodoxy expects all individuals to be sexually active — the young, the middle-aged and even the elderly. It expects them also to perform skilfully, and experience a great deal of physical pleasure. If an individual fails to be sexually active, fails to master sexual skills, or fails in sexual response, he or she is classified, not as immoral, but as sexually sick.

In particular, an individual who is not having a sexual "outlet" (note the implication of an innate sex drive) is suspect. Confirmed bachelors nowadays are expected to be gay. The luckless man who has neither girlfriends nor boyfriends is disparaged as "neuter." He is not a proper man.

The rebels in our society today are the celibates. But even the religious celibates have begun to lose confidence in their chosen role. Many more seek to marry, or find it necessary to apologize for their lack of sexual experience. As one best-selling sex book put it: "An active and rewarding sex life, at a mature level, is indispensable if one is to achieve his full potential as a member of the human race."

Behind this insistence upon the value of sex for everybody, lie, I believe, three powerful myths which have come to dominate our thinking. They distort the way we picture sex. These myths are that sex is harmless fun, that it is good for people, and that it is natural.

The first idea, that sex is harmless fun, is ceaselessly propagated by paperback books, pop songs, advertisements, sex manuals, radio shows, and films. Meaningless social workers and counsellors reassure their clients that it is so. They seek to relieve guilt by maintaining there is nothing in the nature of sex to be guilty about.

Yet this insistence on the harmless fun of sex blinds us to reality. There is a demonic aspect, a dark side to sex. For anger and aggression can be channelled into sexual behaviour. Any couple who have made love after a blazing row know that anger intensifies sexual excitement. Sex is not just exciting and harmless: it can be exciting and dangerous.

Rape is the most obvious example of aggressive sex. In rape, making love literally

becomes making war. Yet rape victims often find that society's view of them is distorted. Rapists often get sympathy by claiming that it was just sexual desire which got out of hand. In a society which pretends that all sex is harmless pleasure, it is perhaps natural that they should be confused about their own impulses.

Nor is sex always good for people. It is not even always healthy. Because we expect sex to be both spontaneous and also skilled, we have opted for both the Pill and the IUD. The condom and the diaphragm interfere with our high standards of lovemaking. Partly as a result of this choice, deaths from contraception in Britain now outnumber deaths from childbirth.

Casual sex is socially acceptable, but it is not socially acceptable to take precautions against disease during a one-night stand. The old enemy, sexually transmitted disease, flourishes therefore. It used to be thought anti-biotics would do away with VD, but some bugs have developed survival strategies by becoming either immune to penicillin or producing a symptomless strain even in men.

The moral argument is that celibacy or monogamy are the best protection against such risks. But the health argument in their favour is not that strong. Sex remains safer than either smoking or drinking. What is worrying, though, is that many people seem to think there are no risks at all. The new orthodoxy has convinced them, in the teeth of the evidence, that sex is healthy.

And if sex is seen to be healthy, anything less than full performance now seems unhealthy. Sexual activity to a certain standard is the outward visible sign of an inward invisible health. Lack of orgasm, or impotence, or some other sexual difficulties are treated as a disease. "A person who is not healthy sexually is not a healthy person" is how one American sex therapist put it.

Those whose sexual skills are not up to standard may suffer many painful feelings. In particular, both men and women are harassed by the idea that lovemaking should produce an orgasm or both partners. In America a sex therapy industry now offers courses of training towards

All you ever think about is sex, sex, SEX!



BUT I only bought these to PLEASE you...



Are we victims of the new sexual orthodoxy?

Shame about sexual activity has been replaced by a preoccupation with it that is making many people unhappy. Celia Haddon, author of a new study, argues the case for a counter revolution.

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The four researchers who redefined sex

1949 KINSEY

Professor Alfred C. Kinsey, a respectable zoologist from Indiana, turned from collecting wild mammals to collecting information on human sex. He produced statistics which shocked post-war America; one in three men had had a homosexual experience, half the married men had been unfaithful to their wives; half America's brides were no longer virgins.

But the other way, those same statistics suggested that a high proportion of people were heterosexual before marriage. But Kinsey's two reports, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, emphasized activity, rather than sexual inactivity. So many people were doing it, the implication was that it couldn't be that immoral.

Kinsey's view of sex and society was equally influential. His reports painted a picture of a repressive society, holding back a natural sexual impulse. With occasional exceptions, he wrote about sexuality as if it was an innate drive seeking to express itself either in one way or another.

But where the moralists would consider this drive bad, Kinsey considered it good. Society's restraints — laws against sex, campaigns against obscenity, moral reformers — were bad.

As a way of reducing sexual behaviour to statistics, Kinsey chose to count orgasms. This was

a reasonable research decision. But when the popularizers began to disseminate the Kinsey findings, it encouraged the idea that the goal of sexual behaviour was orgasm.

1966 MASTERS AND JOHNSON

Dr William H. Masters and his research associate (later his wife) Virginia E. Johnson, took up where Kinsey left off. Instead of asking people what they did and how often, they got couples to have sexual intercourse in the laboratory, where bodily responses would be scientifically measured. Where Kinsey had run into much opposition, Masters and Johnson found their work surprisingly well accepted when they published *Human Sexual Response* in 1966.

Their laboratory volunteers had to be good at sex. In particular, their women volunteers had regular orgasms. Masters and Johnson organized their findings into a framework that assumed an act of sexual behaviour was the same for both sexes, excitement rising to a plateau, culminating in orgasm then dying down again. Once again, the assumption was that in love-making both male and female had one or more orgasms each.

Masters and Johnson then moved on to develop a therapy for sexual problems with *Human Sexual Inadequacy* in 1970. In order to treat such problems, they first had to define what was a problem. Perhaps because of their super-competent volunteers, their standards were high. Masters and Johnson have admitted that by their standards of sickness and health, half the married couples in the United States are inadequate. Indeed, some of the problems they have diagnosed are entirely new. Women who cannot masturbate to orgasm, they say, have a sexual problem.

Their influence, moreover, has been to make sex into a question of health and sickness, rather than morality. An individual now is likely to be classified as ill or healthy, rather than moral or immoral. Being classified as sick can be psychologically painful, as the homosexual lobby has pointed out.

The female multiple orgasm is also a discovery made by Masters and Johnson. Sex manuals have eagerly seized on this phenomenon and suggested that all women should aim at this, thus



Alex Comfort's sequel to *The Joy of Sex*

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requiring an even higher standard of sexual response than before from their readers.

1974 COMFORT

The most influential sex manual of all, *The Joy of Sex*, by Alex Comfort, has been far too sophisticated to make this error. Well written and tastefully illustrated, these bestsellers are the work of a British biologist, Dr Alex Comfort. A gifted man who has written poetry and novels, he is one of the few experts in the field with a readable prose style.

Dr Comfort claims a great deal for recreational sex play, he thinks, may be psychotherapeutic for individuals. "There may be other places we can learn to express all of ourselves, and we aren't," he wrote in 1974.

The *Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex* are frequently recommended by therapists and counsellors. As pillow books, they set a high standard, rather like gourmet recipe books. There is the same civilized tone and a touch of connoisseur snobbery.

In these and other similar books, recreational sex is given a new importance. Two sociologists who studied Alex Comfort's sex manuals and 11 others found that sex was "being asked to provide that which heretofore the family, organized religion and the workplace together afforded."

Celia Haddon's *The Limits of Sex* is published by Michael Joseph on Monday, February 1, price £7.95.

THE ARTS

Television

Mask within mask

John Updike's fictions are, if anything, too smoothly under control, and for the first half hour of last night's Arena profile (BBC2) he looked like achieving a comparable effect in the world of fact. Childhood, boyhood, youth came serenely back through pictures and poems; the literary superstar carried out his metropolitan duties with a benign mixture of acquiescence and cynicism.

Home, then, to his mother, a haven of peace and stillness whom he has come uncannily to resemble. "He was a luminous boy, very little opacity." Her answers came out simply and poetically. "Sometimes the light he throws is a long time getting to me, because I'm that dull. How long does it take light to come from a star?" Son, like mother, was a Lutheran, with no qualms about saying the creed in church. The beauties of the Pennsylvania autumn seemed to have found their perfect human complement.

As the programme probed, the mask began to crack, revealing a colder one beneath. Questioned as to whether the chronicler of marital breakdown had not perhaps sacrificed too much humanity on the altar of his art, the journalist son was evasive, then uneasy, and then, fetching terrible sighs, delivered a condemnation. In some strange way the writer's ruthless self-exposure had left casualties all round and himself unscathed. We left him with his second

wife, and a patriarchal furrow on his brow.

If the above sounds mean, it is the meanness of the medium. As a portrait of the artist, David Cheshire's film was richly illuminating, and should send people to the novels and poems with antennae alerted. As a portrait of the man, it suggested that the scales of moral judgment were in a rather delicate state of balance.

Commitments (BBC1), by Dusty Hughes, was a well-timed play for today. If it had been shown last Friday, when *Newsweek* tried to make a group in *abandonia*, the timing would have been perfect. The stage origins of this excellent production were readily apparent: the entrances and exits were as smooth as the dovelappings in a good piece of carpentry, and the dialogue had the restless urgency of the plot. The vestigial Hughes' concern was to hold up some embattled characters for our admiring contemplation.

As a critical forum, member of one such brotherhood, Hughes has been enabled to present his subversive microcosm with unpolished authenticity, which may do something to help bridge a yawning social divide. The hardship, the paranoia, the malign human effects of the vengeful ideology underpinning revolutionary socialism were tangible at every moment. Glued until the end, I was glad when it was over.

Michael Church

Theatre

Barbican openings

The Royal Shakespeare Company's first season at the new Barbican Centre will open on June 9, with a new production by Trevor Nunn, the company's joint artistic director, of *Henry IV*, parts 1 and 2, which will be given at matinee and evening performances. These plays which reopened the theatre in 1932 after the 1926 fire.

In the announcement of the coming season's activities the company still made no mention of what is to be performed on the opening night of the Barbican Centre, March 3. They are keeping their contribution to the gala opening as a surprise. During the year the company is to mount 24 productions in Stratford and London as well as making two tours in the United Kingdom and a tour to Australia. There will be 12 new Stratford productions at the two theatres there, a record for any Stratford season.

After the *Henry IV* plays at

the Barbican, the season will continue there with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, and *Winter's Tale*, all transferred from Stratford. In September the first new play of the opening Barbican season will be *Poppy*, by Peter Nichols, to be directed by Terry Hands, the company's other joint artistic director. In addition, during the season, Peter Hall and Peter Brook, who have long been associated with the Royal Shakespeare, are to mount productions which will be announced later.

At Stratford the five producers will be Ron Daniels, Howard Davies, Terry Hands, Barry Kyle and Adrian Noble. Davies and Noble will be producing there for the first time. The season opens on March 31 with *Macbeth*, not seen at the theatre for eight years, directed by Howard Davies and with Bob Peck in the title role and Sara Kestelman as Lady Macbeth.

Christopher Warman

Double bill

Old Half Moon

The first play of the evening, *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, sometimes attributed to William Shakespeare and the new York Players Theatre Company is quite noisily reminding the public of that attribution. As a short gallop through Jacobean mayhem in the unusual setting of England herself, circa 1606, it shows streaks of possibly Shakespearean language — or imitation — but it seems more the sort of thing Shakespeare would not want attributed. Telling the story of a man driven mad by impoverishment, it features the unnatural slaughter of his children so they will not become beggars and shows his ultimate transformation through the love of his wife, although that comes a bit late for healthy family life.

Michael Batz's direction compresses it into a curtain-raiser for the similarly themed play *ruin* by Chekhov that follows. Capturing just a bare sense of gory impetus, he hurries the actors on and off a bare black stage. The absence of scenery has the chief advantage of depriving Damien Thomas of anything to chew, except his words. As the deranged husband, he roars and agonizes, but tragic substance is elusive. If Shakespeare had a hand in it, he did it for money, much as he might supply an episode for *The Swanee* today.

Mr Thomas next finds himself at the centre of Chekhov's apprentice piece, *On the Great Road*, as an aristocrat destroyed by a faithless woman. The destruction is nearly complete, except for some barbed derision of the peasants he is forced to consort with, and beg drinks from, but in this instance Mr Thomas has found an impressive tattered dignity which only deserts him when he tries too hard to be drunken. He should be fighting for solsticy, but simply falls around instead.

Set in a seedy coach house among disreputable travellers, the play startlingly anticipates *The Lower Depths* and even Eugene O'Neill. Perhaps such an impoverished setting better lends itself to the limitations of a new play than a grand one, but there is fascination in the piece and some of it escapes into Mr Batz's production.

Ned Chaillet

Jazz

Chris Conner

Ronnie Scott's

One could almost forgive Chris Conner anything in the strength of the inclusion in her repertoire of "The Wind", a song by the superlative Californian pianist Russ Freeman, who consorted so successfully with Chet Baker in the Fifties. "The Wind" is a perfect example of the cool West Coast style of that era: including a self-recriminatory cry of "You fool! You fool!" and a line about "empty arms holding a ghost", its misty introversion calls for a trenchcoat and a trilby; it might be the theme for a remake of "You're never alone with a Strand". Lacking the props, Miss Conner left the character at that and sang the standard saloon repertoire: "All or Nothing at All", "Get Out of Town", "Lover", "Just in Time" (the last curiously enunciated as "Just a dime..."). Fondly remembered by many for her work with the Stan Kenton orchestra 30 years ago, she retains all the professionalism associated with big-band singers, but

time has not been particularly kind to her vocal equipment.

What once seemed to be an interesting, even existentialist detachment comes across in an old-fashioned way as superficiality: her delivery has not broadened to encompass the mature emotions. More seriously, on Monday night she sang persistently flat, particularly when negotiating downward leaps, and her phrasing seemed to be the product of memory and reflex.

Her reading of Billie Holiday's "Good Morning, Heartache" was unduly declamatory (the treatment of the line "Stop haunting me now" was closer to Vincent Price than Lady Day), and Michel Legrand's ballad deserved neither its advance billing as "a very beautiful song" nor its solemn delivery. Unusually, Pat Smythe's piano could not paper over the cracks, although Allan Ganley's drumming ensured a general momentum. Perhaps there will be an improvement during the fortnight they are spending together.

Richard Williams

Opera: John Higgins welcomes Basel's dazzling approach to twentieth-century Verdi

The West Side story of 'Rigoletto'



A morning shave for the Duke during "Ella mi fu rapita"; and (above) henchman Rigoletto cursed by Monterone.

At least two productions of Verdi's *Rigoletto* this year will uproot the action from sixteenth-century Mantua and transplant it to twentieth-century New York. Jonathan Miller next season at the Coliseum intends to set the opera in the early 1950s at the time of *The Godfather*. And he could be on to a winner. Jean-Claude Auvray is already proving at the Basel City Theatre that *Rigoletto* and gangsterdom make excellent stage partners.

Auvray in his dazzlingly effective version has decided to go a little further back in history, and translocate the action to America. The Duke becomes the king of bootlegging, and any other lucrative racket going, and his courtier-hoodlums quite clearly rule the West Side. He and Rigoletto inhabit a pure Warner Bros world of *Scarface* and *Public Enemy*, of speakeasies where the rival gangs shoot it out along the waterfront among hastily converted warehouses and where Dukes are really Dooks. Basel's programme comes covered not with the familiar portraits of Verdi and his librettist Piave but with the images of Cagney, Bogart and, of course, Edward G. Robinson.

The times and places of some Verdi operas are surely immutable. It is difficult to imagine *Falstaff* outside the confines of Windsor and its forest or *Simon Boccanegra* beyond the shores of Genoa. Others, including *Rigoletto* and *Ballo*, are movable — after all in both those instances the ruling censor required Verdi to change the original setting, which is at least half a licence for his interpreter to do likewise. The two rules to be observed when making a switch are that light should be thrown on a facet of the opera which often remains in the shadows and that the alteration should be complete. Both are meticulously carried out in Basel.

The point made most forcefully by Auvray is the double standard by which Rigoletto lives. At work he is the all-licensed henchman, procurer and caterer, laying on banquets and women in equal proportions for his master. He has the boss's ear, advising him on the next man to be fitted with a wooden exerciser and tossed into the Hudson River; in this particular case it is Monterone, whose

daughter is shown in the prelude being thrown off the premises once she has served the Duke's needs. Selt gang headquarters Rigoletto, for his power and his sharp tongue, is the most hated member of the mob. So much for the West Side story. At home on the East Side Rigoletto reverts to being the loving father. Tragedy occurs when his two worlds, which he has gone to such care to keep apart, collide.

The double life is eloquently expressed in Hubert Monplou's sets. "Work" takes place in abandoned garages or storehouses, hastily fitted with a few pool tables below the iron catwalks. Act II in particular is a triumph. The curtain rises on the Duke being shaved and manicured — the top

gangsters were always the best groomed — alongside a Rolls and a vintage Peugeot during "Ella mi fu rapita". George Raft could not have had it better. Home is a pretty white-umbrella house half-covered in creepers on the East Side, of the sort you would have to go to Vermont to find. It is a world away from the speakeasies where Rigoletto has to make his daily bread.

But, Auvray suggests, it is also a prison. Gilda, accurately sung and admirably acted by Ghislaine Raphael, a recent graduate of the Paris Opera Studio, never falls completely out of love with the Duke even after his abduction and rape. She takes down his portrait from the garage wall while telling

her father about those flirtations in church ("Tutto le feste"). The Duke (Paul Frey, a good-looking tenor, whose voice could do with a stronger top) is no more of a villain than those in his employ and at least his standards are consistent. It is Rigoletto, who commits the real crime by pretending half his life to be what he is not. Eduard Tuganjan, a discovery from Romania, turns him into a thoroughly unappealing figure, with his cane and his club-foot, paunchy and balding, fretting that his secrets will come out as indeed they do. Tuganjan, whose baritone easily encompasses a role which lies uncomfortably high for many, was making his debut as Rigoletto but he sounded as if he had been singing it all his life.

The technical resources of Basel's seven-year-old theatre are enormous. It has no difficulty in staging a production as complex as this *Rigoletto* sandwiched between a ballet (*La Fille mal gardée*) and a play (Gombrowicz's *Yvonne, Princess of Burgundy*). The orchestra, under Ingo Inghelmann, is decent, and the chorus outstandingly good and obviously receptive to a production as imaginative and as persuasive as this.

The idea of a "Scarface" *Rigoletto* took root in Auvray's mind when he was on tour with the Paris Opera in New York some years ago. One of the Italian tenors in the company took him to dinner at a restaurant with clear Mafia connotations. Throughout the meal the tenor was referred to as "Ducca" and eventually Auvray plucked up the courage to ask why. "Because he came from Mantua," was the waiter's contemptuous reply. Now Auvray can probably take the credit for being the first producer to turn the Duke's courtier Borsa into Borsalino. His next stop is Paris for the new *Tosca* at the Opera with Kiri Te Kanawa and Jose Carreras in March; there will be no period change.

The Basel *Rigoletto* has further performances on February 3, 5, 14 and 27, with probably more to follow in March and April. It returns to the repertoire next season, in October.

On the way to Basel I caught Les Cœur d'Hoffmann at Zurich. The two houses could not be architecturally less alike, but Zurich too has been getting a reputation for innovation now that Jean-Pierre Ponnelle does much of his work there. He is responsible for three of this season's new productions: *Le Comte Ory* has already been described on this page, *Enfances* comes next month and *Carmen* (with Baltsa and Carreras) in April.

Hoffmann, alas, was not staged by Ponnelle but it did have one outstanding performance — or rather four by the American bass-baritone Simon Estes as the on previous occasions, namely Hoffmann's love from him. It is high time that Mr Estes, who sings Amfortas in the new Bayreuth *Parsifal* this summer, was heard at Covent Garden.

Galleries

Art and the Sea

ICA

It is likely that, almost wherever you may be living in Britain, outside London, you cannot have remained unaware that during the past few months we have been having a sort of scattered, informal celebration of the sea and the artist and those points where they come happily into collision. For an allegedly seafaring nation, we have not always done very well by arts connected with the sea: mainly we have shunted them off into a special category marked "marine artist" with all that somehow implies of the second-rate.

We certainly do not call Turner a marine artist, even when he was, because he was too good. But are the rest necessarily in a lower class than artists tout court? It must have been one of the many purposes of the last year's exhibitions to find out, as well, of course, as finding out how many British artists are today taken nobody by, at least part of their time, with the sea, and what they make of it.

The show at the ICA until February 7 is a compressed summary of nine different kinds of marine art, ranging from the traditional to the modern. It does not offer easily capulated answers to any of these questions. It does at least demonstrate that there are the 139 artists in various media who make up this final show, all of them drawing inspiration somehow from the sea. Some — a very few — are thoroughly traditional. Paul Wright and Christopher Hall, for instance, both paint the sea and ships in a way which would have taken nobody by surprise in the heyday of Scott Tukey, and it is undeniably intriguing to see photographs of Len Tabner painting his storm scenes on the spot, for all the world more than one normally sees.

"Fundamentally, I am tremendously interested in people and in the human predicament. I sometimes say 'I am going to paint this landscape without figures', but I very rarely do so. Figures not only dictate the mood, but provide points of emphasis. Dickens once said that he invented characters and they ran away with him. I find that in my pictures."

Well-rounded man that he is, Weight much enjoys collecting the work of other artists, a taste developed just after the Second World War, when Carlsile Art Gallery asked him to buy for them. Initially with £100 a year, a high point came when, at his last sitting for Orovida Pissarro's portrait (now in the Tate Gallery), she gave him a pastel by her grandfather Camille, saying she was sure he would have liked another painter to have it. He has also swapped works with painter friends like L. S. Lowry and Ruskin Spear, and has some pre-Raphaelites. Nothing abstract: not because he does not like some abstract painting, but because his tastes, like his work, are rooted in nature, and English nature at that.

Roger Berthoud

John Russell Taylor



Carel Weight: "a little more than one normally sees"

Interview

Rooted in English nature

Carel Weight, RA, the subject of a retrospective show at the Royal Academy's Diploma Galleries, reviewed by John Russell Taylor on January 12, is often seen as quintessentially English in style. In fact he has German blood on his mother's side: her father was a Hamburg chiropondist who settled in London, becoming one of the first to tackle the corns of rich Edwardians. Famous singers and musicians like Caruso and Kreisler were among his clients, and he could doubtless have made a fortune. Weight reflects wistfully, had he not been addicted to the turf.

Grandfather passed on his skills to Weight's mother, who preferred chiropondy to minding the home at Shepherd's Bush, lodging young Carrel (named after a Dutch godfather) to a dear but impoverished friend in Chelsea. He saw his parents only at weekends.

Father was a reluctant Barclay's Bank clerk of unfulfilled talents, and the adolescent Carrel was found to have a fine baritone voice. A large female singing teacher, Mrs. Encyclopaedia Britannica on his stomach and pummeled his singing muscles, drastic treatment which killed any sense of vocation, but revived awareness of a gift for drawing people.

His parents were sceptical, but promised him a year at Hammer smith art school. There he started a lifelong friendship with Ruskin Spear, his fellow RA, and did well enough to go on to Goldsmiths' College at New Cross, in south London. The art school there was then under Clive Gardiner, "perhaps the best head of an art school ever known", Weight reckons. Keenly interested already both in composition and the application of paint (admiring in this respect, above all, Rubens), he tackled half a dozen large canvases — two are in the RA show — which laid the foundations of his

remarkably consistent work. To this day he still does a preliminary oil sketch, then squares it up for transfer to the final canvas. Thereafter he made his own way, teaching part-time at Beckenham School of Art, and selling adequately at art man shows and the Royal Academy. He became a war artist only in 1945, after two years of mental tasks in the Royal Armoured Corps, spending a year in Italy, at a low ebb then, but soon, at a time when the war was still raging, he was back in London and his environs.

In 1947 he joined the staff of the Royal College of Art, at a low ebb then, but soon, at a time when the war was still raging, he was back in London and his environs.

Had he, one wondered, enjoyed presiding first over student responses to the New York-based revival of abstraction, then over the brilliant Hockney generation? "I felt the job was not so much to teach, except in one or two exceptional cases, as to create an atmosphere in which people could be stimulated to work and to bring things out of themselves, and to provide an environment geared to the production of pictures. But when you find a student to whom you feel you can give something, it is really rather stimulating. Things that have been fuzzy in the back of your mind you have to make clear. You can't however hope to give a large number of people very much."

Since 1973 Weight has been his own master, to the benefit of his own output. Now 73, he is an immensely friendly, relaxed yet erudite, slightly pear-shaped man who lives with a woman friend — he has never married — at Wandsworth. It is at first surprising that his own work, often sumptuously painted, should be marked by an

anecdotal vein ranging from gently macabre fantasy to real anguish (with overtones of Munch, whom he admires).

What lay behind all that? Hard to say, he responds: "One is never after the same thing — one would be a pretty dull dog if one was... I approach things in different moods — my paintings are all about moods."

"I'm normally a fairly placid person, and I like to be stimulated — as, for example, by going up in a plane, which makes me a bit scared and the blood go around faster. I like to paint pictures in which the visual world is very much as in ordinary life, but with something a little more exciting, a little more than one normally sees. "Fundamentally, I am tremendously interested in people and in the human predicament. I sometimes say 'I am going to paint this landscape without figures', but I very rarely do so. Figures not only dictate the mood, but provide points of emphasis. Dickens once said that he invented characters and they ran away with him. I find that in my pictures."

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Concerts

Bernard d'Ascoli

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Considering what the requirements of piano playing, let alone virtuosity, are, the achievement of Bernard d'Ascoli, who was deprived of sight at the age of three, is remarkable. It demands confidence of an exceptional kind to step out on to the platform of the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Monday and begin with the fifteenth of Messiaen's *Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus*. Yet his fluency in this still-difficult music is such that he was entirely justified, and I should one day like to hear the entire cycle from him.

Such an interpretation must involve for Mr d'Ascoli, more than for most, an intense, almost autistic concentration of the music and this paid special dividends in terms of calmly balanced proportions and beautifully smooth tonal gradation. In Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, for example, there was a great range of delicate pianissimo power, and of delicate interpretative perceptions also. This performance scarcely realized the maximum rhythmic zest that can be drawn from these outwardly suave waltzes, but so refined a musical conception was rewarded enough in that it showed some of Ravel's pages in an unfamiliar light. And there was no lack of

essential forward movement.

Francis Poulenc's *Chorale* and *Fugue* is a more heavyweight piece, not least in its thicker, less innately graceful textures. The same uncommon tonal control was apparent in the *Prelude*, and one particularly noted a feature common to all Mr d'Ascoli's readings here, as on previous occasions, namely that the music's contours seemed, as it were, more than usually rounded. Yet a highly cultivated sense of line was evident also, not only in the *Fugue* but in locating the voices hidden in the central Choral's spread chords. As to the *Fugue*, resolute separation of line and richness of tone augured well for what was to follow.

Liszt's *Sonata* is in more than one sense a more heavyweight undertaking, and the character of its writing is that, frankly, more risks were involved for Mr d'Ascoli. Wrong notes were apparent in passages involving quick, wide leaps, yet considering the uncompromising force of the interpretation they were few indeed. That the work was backed by the strong but finely controlled lyrical impulse which flowed through what is, in effect, this work's slow movement. The fugato was amazingly deft, even if a few musical errors were noted. And the final climax involved no evasions at all.

Max Harrison

Weinberg/Wallfisch

St John's/Radio 3

Before the Wallfisch-Weinberg Trio came together in the BBC's lunch-hour recital in St John's on Monday, the spotlight was focused in turn on Raphael Wallfisch's clarinet and Anton Weinberg's cello. Both were quite outstanding. Sometimes in pursuit of equally fine tapering the cellist was inclined to let his lovely tone wilt at phrase-ends instead of carrying through.

the quite extraordinary potency of emotion conveyed with the utmost subtlety and delicacy of colouring and dynamic nuance. It can be heard again next Sunday at 1 pm on Radio 3.

Finally, Brahms's autumnal Trio, phrased and balanced with an affecting intimacy and tenderness. Again Mr Weinberg's breath control was quite outstanding. Sometimes in pursuit of equally fine tapering the cellist was inclined to let his lovely tone wilt at phrase-ends instead of carrying through.

Joan Chissell

Advertisement for RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) featuring the text "AS YOU LIKE IT" and "THE SHOW IS IRRESISTIBLE". It includes details about performances and ticket information.



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BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC LEGACY

Not many of Britain's now over three million unemployed will have read the recent gush of economic optimism from the Treasury. Those who have should remain pessimistic about their personal chances of getting a job in the next couple of years. The Treasury has its own reasons for adding a little gloom to its customary glum prognostications. It does not want Tory "wets" attending Thursday's pre-budget Cabinet to seize upon the unemployment figures as a justification for major reflation — nor does it want them to claim the credit for such reflation as may be proposed on March 9.

Our economic prospects have not suddenly been transformed into sunshine. But some signs are encouraging. A stunning positive balance of £1/2 billion in December's trade figures suggests a record surplus for 1981 as a whole. The corporate sector has moved back into surplus and consumer spending is rising again, supporting the view that the recession did bottom out last summer. Economic growth this year is now likely to exceed the Treasury's one per cent forecast — hardly grounds for euphoria, but at least promising more buoyant tax revenues. Most important for the coming budget, the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) seems on course for its target of £10/4 billion and next year could be below £9 billion. The money supply is still astray, but is apparently no longer the touchstone of national economic virtue.

The Cabinet on Thursday will not of course learn, discuss or determine the precise composition of the budget. That specific knowledge, give or take a leak or two, remains privy to the Chancellor, the Prime Minister, and their closest advisers, as it should where tax-sensitive proposals are concerned. But the major part of the budget is not of that kind and the traditional ritual of budget secrecy is excessive. The factors and constraints which shape the budget and the range of options open to the Chancellor are apparent to most informed commentators. He does not produce magic from his box, but his own judgment on a balance of numbers which are broadly known. It is right that ministers, who share the political consequences of the Chancellor's judgment, should be more involved in the debate that frames his view. The Treasury, on past evidence, has no monopoly of wisdom, and might even benefit from extending this process of dialogue further into Parliament and the public.

The main question facing ministers will concern the extent of reflation. With £2 billion comfortably available without loosening the fiscal stance, the "wets" may be tempted to settle for that as at least representing progress in the right direction, while the hawks rest content that nothing excessive has been given away. The Tory party could then unite behind the growing consensus for a modest package containing a substantial cut in the national insurance surcharge to assist industry, and a small cut in direct taxation which would take Mrs Thatcher towards the lower tax burdens which she promised but has not delivered. Such a cautious outcome would not be foolish economically or politically. The main plank in the Government's programme remains its crusade against inflation. The Treasury's forecasts point to single figure inflation in about a year's time, but then they have done that every year since Mrs Thatcher came to office. The expected outcome from this pay round of around 9 per cent is a quite high platform from which to move into pre-election laxity.

Therefore a Government which relies on market forces, which means recession, to restrain wages and prices must be cautious about expanding economic activity if it wishes to retain credibility for its anti-inflation policies.

After making every allowance for economic principle and political prudence, the nagging doubt remains that the present economic reality in Britain simply does not make sense. With three million out of work, output at below the level of 1974, large chunks of our industry disappearing, our cities crumbling, services deteriorating, the education and training of our children being hacked away, and the financial costs of recession actually rising, government expenditure and interest rates, it is not clear that the kind of budget which is being previewed and indeed heralded as a new dawn is appropriate to the daunting task which faces our rulers. It is devastatingly clear that Britain needs massive investment, private and public, to restore its competitive strength. It needs imagination and international co-operation in reducing interest rates and stabilising currencies throughout Europe and North America.

The Europeans are valiantly trying to create a pool of lower interest rates to protect their nascent recovery from another surge of American interest rates. But what will they do when it comes, as it seems possible? This is the economic question which overhangs the petty cash of Sir Geoffrey's Budget. There are answers; we need not be flotsam on the high seas. Perhaps some Ministers will lift Thursday's Cabinet discussion beyond the entrails of the monetary aggregates towards a vision of what kind of Britain will be bequeathed not only to the next government, which may be Mrs Thatcher's, but also the next generation.

which should mean a gradual reduction in the predominance of agriculture. It has been agreed that more should be done to help Mediterranean farmers. Some progress has also been made on another sensitive issue, the surplus of dairy products: it is likely that a final settlement will include measures to curb production, once the differences over the treatment of small farmers have been resolved.

But the commitments will only be expressed in general terms, and at best there will only be a slow change in the Community's spending priorities. So it is right that Britain should hold out for a satisfactory settlement on the most sensitive issue of all, that of budget contributions, because if it does not it could find itself bearing much of the cost of continued failure to curb agricultural spending. In the proposals that have been made so far, Britain has been offered a reduction in its contributions, but only for a certain number of years, and on condition that the rebate diminishes each year — the assumption being that its difficulties will be over by the end of the period. Britain needs better terms than that. It has had undertakings before that the Community would reduce its agricultural spending. They cannot be taken on trust.

So far there has been provisional agreement on a number of points which should eventually form part of a new settlement. It has been agreed, for instance, that in future Community spending on agriculture should increase more slowly than the resources available to the Community; that the commitments will only be expressed in general terms, and at best there will only be a slow change in the Community's spending priorities. So it is right that Britain should hold out for a satisfactory settlement on the most sensitive issue of all, that of budget contributions, because if it does not it could find itself bearing much of the cost of continued failure to curb agricultural spending. In the proposals that have been made so far, Britain has been offered a reduction in its contributions, but only for a certain number of years, and on condition that the rebate diminishes each year — the assumption being that its difficulties will be over by the end of the period. Britain needs better terms than that. It has had undertakings before that the Community would reduce its agricultural spending. They cannot be taken on trust.

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Keeping dialogue with Moscow

From Mr Simon May

Sir, It is extraordinary that after all these years Dr Kissinger (articles, January 22 and 23) should still reject dialogue with Moscow during periods of East-West crisis on the ground that it enables the Soviets to "absorb themselves of their aggressions".

It is common sense, though Dr Kissinger berates it, for two adversaries capable of destroying the world many times over to maintain their dialogue at the highest levels when the danger to peace is greatest. What, therefore, should be at issue is not the principle of dialogue with the Soviets but the strategy with which the West faces them at the negotiating table. The power which we can orchestrate to back it and the unity with which we present it.

Of course, it is both damaging to Western interests and non-sensical if Soviet aggression towards us is to be met by Moscow's eagerness and conciliatory while periods of relative calm make it confrontational and hedged with conditions. This would be as much a sign of weakness as the abandonment of dialogue which Dr Kissinger advocates. The Polish Church at least appears to believe that this is so.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON MAY,
68 Lowther Road, SW13
January 25

Mapping for the future

From Major-General R. C. A. Edge

Sir, Your report today ("Threat to Ordnance Survey", January 20) and admirable leading article on this subject encourage me, as former Director General of the Ordnance Survey, to write and express my strong support.

The object of the Ordnance Survey is not to make a profit but to provide an essential service to the nation. Like other comparable services, eg, defence, police, national health, its benefits are virtually impossible to quantify in any satisfactory manner, but one knows through bitter experience the true cost of allowing the national survey to fall into disrepair as it did between the wars.

The Ordnance Survey performs a function in our national life akin to that of the lubricant in a complicated machine: its cost is very small but the cost of neglecting it is likely to be very high indeed.

For these reasons the policy of the present Government of putting the accent on profitability seems to me to be misconceived as far as the Ordnance Survey is concerned. It is true that the statement of the Secretary of State for the Environment on July 22, 1981, gives the assurance that "The trading fund proposals will not affect the OS's primary function as a national mapping agency", but it also claims as an advantage that the department's "performance can be judged in a commercial framework". In such a framework I think it inevitable that profitability must be the main consideration.

It will be a great pity if the Government's preoccupation with avoiding a "loss" on the lubricant ultimately leads to serious harm to the machine, particularly now that, after half a century of effort, its smooth running is once more safeguarded by the provision of good surveys.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. A. EDGE
Greenway House,
North Curry,
Taunton.
Somerset.
January 20.

Pay award

From Mr Godfrey Eland

Sir, I find it difficult to comprehend your description of a 7 per cent pay award to local authority manual workers as "lamentable" (leading article, January 22) when their average weekly pay is less than that earned by a machine minder on a Sunday newspaper for one shift.

There are certainly some glass houses in Fleet Street! Yours faithfully,
GODFREY ELAND,
26 Halcynon Way,
Burton upon Trent,
Staffordshire.
January 22.

British fishing industry's fears

From Mr D. N. Parkes

Sir, The reports concerning the state of modern freezer trawlers (January 18 and 19), prompt me to write as one member of the delegation of trawler owners that met the Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries on January 18.

The fishing industry is in a unique position in these times of recession in that apart from suffering from all the ills of unit costs rising much faster than unit prices during the last three years, its fishing opportunities are the subject of both Government and EEC control from London and Brussels. The industry is prevented from going out and catching the species the market requires in such quantities and in whatever season it desires by active and sometimes unreasonable restrictions on its freedom of movement.

For example, what remains of our once great freezer trawler fleet cannot plan its 1982 activity, since although we are at present in the middle of the winter mackerel fishery, no freezer trawler quota has been allocated by ministers for either mackerel or herring for the 1982 year.

Similarly, no specific north Norwegian cod quota has been allocated by Brussels to the UK and the Canadian cod quota of 14,500 tonnes, out of a total of 17,000 tonnes, has been allocated to the UK is so hopelessly inadequate in relation to the UK's historic claims to distant water cod quotas, as compared with France and Germany, that it verges upon the ineffectual.

In addition, the slow pace at which our ministry often works actively prevents our industry prosecuting various fisheries at the most opportune time and consequently we often find ourselves at a competitive disadvantage to our colleagues in other member states of the EEC.

Blacking the press

From Mr Claud Morris

Sir, It is the old story, the battle to print. All of us in the inkly art have our memories. Mine is that yesterday's enemies of the right to print become tomorrow's friends. Sometimes vice versa.

My paper, *South Wales Voice*, 20 years ago, miners of the Dulais Valley blacked us from village newsagents' shops because we reported workers alleged to be smuggling cigarettes into the pits. Two years later the Coal Board removed all advertising from my papers because we battled against the closures of those self-same pits.

Commercial, professional and racial groups also have their politicians who seek to black. Ten years ago Swansea traders removed advertising from two of my papers because they didn't care too much for the content of a couple of outside journals we were printing commercially. Here, too, although the content of those outside journals was as many high years away from us as the content of the *Sun* is from your good selves, we battled for and finally achieved a moral victory, although at some economic cost.

Attempts to strangle newspapers, in large or small ways, are, in large or small ways, paradoxical that British trades unionists should be tempted to ban your paper from the trains because of an article, not printed by you, but by the *Sun* newspaper under the same group ownership, whilst Polish trades unionists in their embattled circumstances depend on papers like *The Times* to convey their case to the world.

Energy for prosperity

From Professor H. W. Singer

Sir, Your editorial on Energy for prosperity (January 12) rightly emphasises the importance of negotiating an understanding with the Opec countries. It also contains what must be the key components of any such understanding. However, two important components seem to be missing.

Agreement that the Opec countries will stop draining the resources of the poorer developing countries, thus lowering their import capacity and creating obstacles in the way of industrial country resources being made available. This will require Opec either to supply cheap oil at heavily reduced prices to these countries, as Venezuela and Mexico are already doing in the Caribbean area, or else making automatic financial refunds. Such direct recycling would normally be preferable to indirect recycling and would reduce the load on the international monetary system.

2. In return, something will have to be offered to Opec. I think your editorial was not realistic in not containing any such concession to Opec. The concession which we should make is to offer Opec what they so dearly desire, i.e. inflation-proof investments for their surpluses — granny bonds for Opec! Yours faithfully,
H. W. SINGER,
The Institute of Development Studies,
University of Sussex,
Brighton,
Sussex.

whose activities are not so closely controlled.

Furthermore, other member states within the EEC, in the absence of a settled common fisheries policy, have seen fit to take sufficient measures to keep their fishing industries economically stable and in some cases have created sufficient confidence for large new modern vessels to be built. The irony of this is that these new vessels will spend the majority of their time catching fish in British waters while the modern units in our own fleet continue to be sold off to fund continuing operating losses.

The long-term effect of this situation is that the British fleet will continue to decline, leaving a large gap in the fleet of vessels remaining, whilst our EEC competitors will have large fleets of modern vessels employing the most up-to-date methods of fishing. One cannot help wondering whether this is part of a grand design by the rest of Europe to manoeuvre the British industry into such a weak position that will allow our politicians to settle the common fisheries policy on terms which, up to now, have been totally unacceptable to the industry.

The Government must reaffirm that it wants a British fishing industry, not only by making statements to that effect in the House of Commons, but also by taking positive steps to eliminate the uncertainty and create the confidence for a long-term future, quite irrespective of whether a settlement of the common fisheries policy is imminent or not.

Yours faithfully,
D. N. PARKES, Chairman,
Boston Deep Sea Fisheries Limited,
St Andrews Dock,
Hull.
January 20.

Two last thoughts for some rainmen at King's Cross who, as I see from your edition of this morning's date (January 26), still reject the commonsense advice of their union leadership to call it a day: The men who are blacking these papers today could be saying, "Thank God for a free press" tomorrow.

When and if the final totalitarians break the proud spirit of the press they will achieve much that is final and absolute. And on that day free trade unions will die, too. Yours sincerely,
CLAUD MORRIS,
Voice-Chronicle Newspaper Investment Syndicate S.A.,
15a Lowndes Street, SW1.
January 26.

From Professor Raphael Loewe
Sir, You and I may be very grateful to Mr Steve Forey and his friends at King's Cross. They have demonstrated, 1, that they are prepared to sabotage the freedom of the press when it suits them, and that they have the muscle to do so; 2, the impotence of Aslef in regard to disciplining its members; 3, the reluctance of the TUC to dissociate itself from them; and 4, the conspicuous failure of the Labour Party to condemn them.

No doubt the electorate will remember this long enough to deny the responsibilities of government to a party that cannot bestir itself to protest at the interference with civil liberties by those whose support it depends on. I myself belong to no political party, but remain, Sir, Your obedient servant,
RAPHAEL LOEWE,
50 Gurney Drive, NZ.
January 25.

Caribbean area, or else making automatic financial refunds. Such direct recycling would normally be preferable to indirect recycling and would reduce the load on the international monetary system.

2. In return, something will have to be offered to Opec. I think your editorial was not realistic in not containing any such concession to Opec. The concession which we should make is to offer Opec what they so dearly desire, i.e. inflation-proof investments for their surpluses — granny bonds for Opec! Yours faithfully,
H. W. SINGER,
The Institute of Development Studies,
University of Sussex,
Brighton,
Sussex.

defines more accurately what he means by his varied uses of the word "ordination". Confusion is not eased when Anglicans are told by their legal advisers that after "reconciliation" the former Free Church ministers will be in canon law and elsewhere be "deemed" to be within the historic priesthood.

What is becoming increasingly clear is that for all the genuine effort and sincere intent to meet the difficulties of the Catholic wing of the Church of England, the method chosen by the Council for Covenancing is not simply inadequate for that task, but will, if implemented, increase rather than heal the divisions in the Body of Christ.

A Soviet view of civil defence

From Dr M. R. Dando

Sir, I am writing with regard to the letter by Mr Edward Leigh, Chairman of the National Council for Civil Defence, which appeared in your columns on January 21. In this letter, entitled "Educative task for CND," it was again suggested that the Soviet Union has a massive and very efficient civil defence system designed to operate in a nuclear war. I am aware of the American literature on which this viewpoint is based, and, apparently unlike many of its British advocates, I am also aware of the American criticisms of this view.

Therefore, whilst I was in the Soviet Union on a Quaker religious delegation earlier this month, one of my objectives was to get some direct evidence on which side in this clearly drawn argument was correct. Naturally, I did not expect to get answers to specific questions on civil defence organisation, but it was possible to ask a wide variety of people what they were trained to do in the event of a nuclear attack.

The standard response to this question was that they had no idea what to do. Sometimes they would recall a civil defence course given long ago at school; sometimes they would remark that there was a shelter in the basement of their apartment block, and add that they had no idea of where the key was kept! Staggeringly, also, they would say that they had never heard of people near by the same question nine would give a similar answer to the one I had just received.

I ended up by putting Mr Leigh's point — that there are people in the West who believe that the Soviet Union has a massive and efficient civil defence system — to an academic seminar. This evoked astonishment and some laughter.

Such anecdotal evidence does not, of course, disprove the contention that the Soviet Union has an incredibly efficient civil defence organisation which, for example, with actual work when 60 warheads with 1,400 tonnes of tonnage that fell on Hiroshima fall on Moscow. It does, however, lend some weight to the strong arguments of the American critics of the view that the Soviet Union has a "proper" civil defence system.

More importantly, for the British reader, it should raise some questions about Mr Leigh's views on who needs education about what. Mr Leigh and his fellow civil defence propagandists here are, in the absence of other arguments, increasingly trying to use Soviet civil defence as a means of persuading us that we need more civil defence which will "save" us in a nuclear war. Wouldn't it be fairer to people in Britain if Mr Leigh and his friends fully cited both sides of the American argument if they wish to repeat it over here? M. R. DANDO,
School of Peace Studies,
University of Bradford,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire.
January 21.

Blood and Grail

From Dr L. A. Moritz

Sir, If a Latinist may venture among the theologians in the controversy that is sure to surround *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (Bevis Hillier's article, January 18), it may be worth while to point out that *Et in Arcadia ego* must rank high among misused Latin tags.

The Latin cannot mean what Goethe and many others (including, apparently, the Plantard family) took it to mean: "I too was in Arcadia." Its only possible meaning is "Even in Arcadia am I."

The association of the phrase with death (skulls or tombs) in the midst of Arcadian shepherds in numerous paintings, among which the Poussin is merely the most famous, shows that the *ego* in the phrase is death himself, and this association of the pastoral Arcadia with death goes back to Virgil's tenth Eclogue, which first placed idyllic shepherds in an Arcadian landscape. All this was pointed out nearly 50 years ago in a well-known essay by E. Panofsky (in *Philosophy and History, Essays presented to E. Cassirer*, Oxford, 1955) and has been repeated in various publications since; but it seems that the traditional misinterpretation is stronger than the obvious truth.

Yours etc,
L. A. MORITZ,
Vice-Principal (Administration) and Registrar,
University College,
P.O. Box 78,
Cardiff.
January 19.

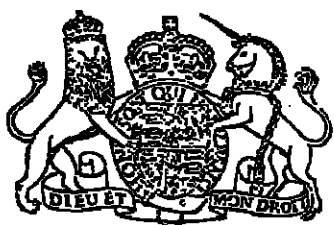
Proper names

From the Reverend Courtney Atkin

Sir, It may be worth recalling the occasion on which, after a visit to Japan to show the flag, and an exchange of courtesies with a charming Japanese family, I received a letter of thanks addressed to the Rev. H. M. S. Albion.

Yours faithfully,
COURTNEY ATKIN,
(formerly Chaplain, Royal Navy),
Pitcombe Rectory,
Bruton, Somerset.
January 21.

From Mr Paul Watkins
Sir, The royal farms frequently receive invoices addressed to "HM Queen Esq".
Yours faithfully,
PAUL WATKINS,
Pastures Farm,
Sotherton,
Suffolk.
January 21.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

January 26: The Queen, Honorary Colonel of the Sandringham Centre for the Disabled, visited the Royal Air Force Marham today. Having been received upon arrival by the Station Commander (Group Captain J. S. P. Price), Her Majesty toured the exhibition "RAF Marham Past, Present and Future", attended a Reception for All Ranks and honoured the Station Commander with her presence at luncheon.

Afterwards The Queen opened and toured the Sandringham Centre for recreation, and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Lady Susan Hussey, Sir William Heseltine and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

Lady Abel Smith has succeeded Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 26: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips today opened the new World Timetable Centre

at Dunstable and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Bedfordshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Hanbury) and the Chairman and Chief Executive of IPC Business Press Ltd (Sir Keith Skinner, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, escorted by the Managing Director of ABC Travel Guides Ltd (Mr A. D. G. Morgan), toured the offices, declared the Centre open and, afterwards, was entertained at luncheon.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, attended by the Countess of Lichfield, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

CLARENCE HOUSE January 26: The Hon Mrs John Mulholland has succeeded Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE January 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present today at the Luncheon which was held at the Savoy Hotel for the Presentation of The Standard Drama awards.

The Lady Anne Tennant was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. A. Daly and Miss N. F. Barclon

The engagement is announced between Denis Richard Anthony, elder son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs D. A. Daly, and Rachel, only daughter of the Rector of Windsor and Mrs D. N. Griffiths.

Mr C. Manwaring Robertson and Miss J. T. Mills

The engagement is announced between Charles, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David L. Manwaring Robertson, of Ketches, Newick, near Lewes, Sussex, and Jacqueline, daughter of the late Mrs Doris Mills, of 19 Astell Street, London, SW3, and of Mr Philip Mills, of La Residence de l'Annuaire, Monte Carlo.

Mr P. G. F. Grant and Miss C. L. Kitson

The engagement is announced between Peter George Frederick, son of the late Mr G. F. Grant and Mrs J. L. Grant, of Church House, Washington, Sussex, and Carol Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. N. Kitson, Fairfield, Little Ribston, Yorkshire.

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, chairman of The Leonard Cheshire Foundation since 1974, is to be succeeded by Mr Peter Rowley in May 1982. Mr Rowley has been honorary treasurer for several years. Sir Christopher will remain with the foundation as chairman emeritus.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs James Macmillan-Scott was christened Clementine by the Rev William Baddley at St James's Piccadilly, on January 26, 1982. The godparents are Mr and Mrs Henry Wyndham, Mr Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, Mr Timothy Simond, Mrs Thomas Hughes Hallett, and Mrs William Boyd.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid): Austin, Mr Henry, of Folkestone £230,598; Rush, Mr Kenneth Patrick, of Sevenoaks, Kent, civil engineer, founder of the Rush and Tompkins construction and property group £1,035,949.

Latest appointments

Mr Antony V. Driver to be chairman of the South-west Thames Regional Health Authority from February 1 until July 31 1982.



Princess Margaret with Sir John Mills and Miss Mary Hayley Bell, his wife, at the Savoy yesterday.

Maggie Smith named as best actress

By Our Arts Correspondent

Alan Howard, a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, was named best actor of the year for his part in the play *The Tempest* at the Barbican Theatre.

Passion Play, by Peter Nichols, an RSC production, won the best play award; *Goose Pimples*, by Mike Leigh, was judged the best comedy; and *Crucial Moments*, by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the best musical.

Nell Dunn was named most promising playwright, for *Steaming* and Sir Peter Hall's production of *The Orpheus* at the National Theatre, won the Sidney Edwards award. Sir Peter also took the opera award for Britten's *Middleton* at Glyndebourne, and Peter Wright, director of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, received the ballet award.

Birthdays today



Mr Brian Rix, actor-manager and secretary-general of Mencap, who is 58.

Sir Wilfrid Bourne, 60, Lord Chelwood, CBE, Sir Kenneth Corbridge, 58, Sir Robert Dent, 87, Sir John Eccles, 79, Sir Neville Faulks, 74, Mr John Hopkins, 51, Mr Maurice Macmillan, MP, 61, Lord Merville, 65, Miss Nina Milkins, 63, Mr John Ogdon, 45, Sir William de Souza, 77, Lord Wells-Pestell, 72.

25 Years Ago

From The Times of Friday, January 25, 1957

Westminster, Thursday. — With all the simple but formidable pomp which the monarchs for such rare occasions, the Commons disposed in eight minutes of the affair of Mr John Junior, editor of the *Sunday Express*. Having heard him apologise for what they agreed with their Committee of Privileges was a serious content of the House, they decided to proceed no further in the matter. Speaking clearly and with composure and with more than a touch of Scottish accent, Mr Junior said: "Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to express my sincere and unreserved apologies for any imputation or reflection which may have been cast upon the honour and integrity of the Members of this House in the article which I published in the *Sunday Express* on December 18. At no time did I intend to be disrespectful to Parliament. My only aim was to focus attention on what I considered to be an injustice in the allocation of petrol — namely the allowances given to political parties in the constituencies. In my judgment, these allowances were a proper — and indeed an inescapable — subject of comment in a free press. That was the point I held then and hold now, Sir."

BBC acts to secure wide sports coverage

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC made it clear yesterday that it has no intention of letting independent television have "a slice of the action" when it comes to televised sport.

Announcing general new sports contracts covering athletics, cricket, tennis and darts, officials emphasized that while they are anxious that viewers should not have to see this summer's World Cup matches on both channels, they will not take too kindly to their competitors snatching in and creating off the best the BBC can offer.

Talks about the World Cup and ways of alternating programmes are taking place between the BBC and Independent Television, but Mr Bill Cotton, deputy managing director of BBC Television, who is to be the new director of programmes, said at a press reception: "We cannot take too kindly to their competitors snatching in and creating off the best the BBC can offer."

"If we happen to do something very well, ITV wants a slice of it. They take too kindly to our competitors coming in and saying, 'we want that and we do not want you to do it.'"

The BBC will have exclusive coverage in March of the Cooney-Holmes world heavyweight championship and in athletics will show the first two events of the Crystal Palace in July.

Mr Jonathan Martin, head of sport, who did not disclose the value of the new contracts negotiated by the BBC beyond saying that they represented "a multi-million pound package", said in the past few months the corporation has been busy negotiating for British viewers the future of big sporting occasions.

These include: agreement with the four home rugby unions to extend the contract for a further three years beyond this season; a contract with the Royal and Ancient for an extension to 1985 of the exclusive coverage of Open golf; and contracts for world professional championship snooker and darts until the same time.

The BBC is also to cover the British Grand Prix and all overseas grands prix for three more years and the agreement with the British Grand Prix Club has been extended for a further five years for coverage of the Wimbledon championships.

Collector snaps up rare Wyndham Lewis volume

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

At Christie's South Kensington, a patchwork of rare Wyndham Lewis volumes, including a first edition of *One Way Song* of 1933, unopened and uncut, had been estimated at £50 to £75 by Sotheby's.

A private collector carried it off at £1,000. It is clearly one of the rarest of the Wyndham Lewis collector would have been difficult to find. It is being sold for £1,000.

The other big surprise was a presentation copy of Malcolm Lowry's novel *Under the Volcano* of 1933, for which Lowry, a New York dealer, paid £1,650 (estimate £100 to £150). Lowry, who died young, is highly considered by the collector.

Among "popular" novellas, P. G. Wodehouse was making a particularly good showing with a 1915 first edition of *Mr Men* (estimate £285, estimate £100 to £150). A group of six of his early boys' adventure stories, in attractive pictorial cloth bindings but not first editions, sold for £180 (estimate £30 to £40).

Moreover... Miles Kington

Here is the official list of new permitted diseases for 1982, issued annually by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Autographia nervosa: the inability to write your signature the same way twice.

Biographia tremens: an uncontrollable urge to write the life story of Michael Holroyd.

Creeping Virginia: the irrational belief that Bloomsbury is the centre of the known universe.

Delirium japonicum: an illusion that anything made or created in Japan is absolutely wonderful.

Emsworth's disease: a compulsion to know the works of P. G. Wodehouse off by heart in public display this knowledge.

Fallen arches: a disease which attacks old buildings the day before a preservation order is granted to them.

Gerontophobia: the fear of having one's age mentioned in *The Times* birthday list.

Hypermania asieflana: a mental condition brought on by accusations of inactivity. In its irrational stage, the sufferer will actually go on strike to prove that he is not inactive.

Inactive fever: an irrational fear of France, Czechoslovakia and Kuwait.

Janitor's Knee: a mysterious ailment which renders the patient incapable of taking the rubbish to the receiving messages or clearing snow from pavements.

Kowloon Flu: the only orient disease not yet to have reached the West, due here in March.

Lichfield's Syndrome: a form of extreme shyness — the inability to look beautiful women in the face except through a lens.

Morning sickness: a kind of nausea brought on by reading in the paper that yet another book is planned about Princess Diana's baby.

Non-smoker's cough: a small nervous habit of coughing disapprovingly whenever a friend is about to light up.

Onionitis: a pathological conviction that there is such a thing as ozone.

Psittacosis: a disease peculiar to football managers.

Quangosis: an inability to justify one's existence brought on by the illusion that one is being employed by the last government but one.

Rugbyitis: a nervous disorder which forces the sufferer to use his feet when he should use his hands.

Schizophrenia paranoia: a mental condition brought on by seeing schizophrenia described in a newspaper as "split personality".

Symptoms are high blood pressure, loud screaming and the writing of a letter to the newspaper rubbishing the receiving messages or clearing snow from pavements.

How often must I wearily point out that schizophrenia is not dual personality...?

Tennis elbow: any physical injury done to a line judge or umpire.

Unilateralitis: a disease which attacks marriage, the urge to give up living in a nuclear unit.

Vox populiitis: an unhealthy desire to appear on the same programme as Esther Rantzen.

Wisteria: a temporary madness brought on by having a flower name after you and then misspelled because your name was actually Wistar. I mean, for heaven's sake, they don't talk about Farsythia or Delhia or Bargainville, do they? Well, then.

Xenophobia: the apparently irrational conviction that everything is done better elsewhere, e.g. that the French metro never breaks down or that American planes land more frequently on runways than ours do.

Yellow fever: an irrational urge to go on holiday to China.

Zeditis: An irritating compulsion to make a list which omits no letter of the alphabet.

OBITUARY

MR MIKHAIL SUSLOV

Stalinist ideologue in the Kremlin



Mr Mikhail Andreyevich Suslov, whose death at the age of 73 is reported, had been suffering from chronic tuberculosis and a suspected kidney complaint for some years.

He was a formidable ideologue cast in the Stalinist mould who opposed all Khrushchev's liberalizing measures of political and cultural de-Stalinization in literature and the arts, his economic reforms, uncensored policy towards Red China and policies of détente towards the U.S.A. and Yugoslavia. His gaunt "stringy" bespectacled figure was a familiar sight at Communist Party meetings especially in Eastern European capitals where so often since 1947, he represented the Soviet Union. Yet owing to his reserve and dislike of social functions little is known of him personally and foreigners had virtually "no access to him except 'on business'". With his austere aspect and sinister ideological reputation, Suslov was often compared to the Grand Inquisitor.

He belonged to the elite of the C.P.S.U. as a lifelong apparatchik, a member of the Central Committee (since 1941), the Secretariat and the Politburo. He also held various high offices in the State system including chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of the Union, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of Ministers, and member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He visited Great Britain twice, first in 1947 with the Supreme Soviet Delegation and again in 1957.

Suslov was born in 1902 in a poor peasant family of Saratov. He joined the Party in 1920, the ranks of the local komzomol and the Poor Peasants' Committee. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Economics and the Plekhanov Economic Institute (1928) and later studied at the Institute of the Social Sciences in Moscow University and the Industrial Academy. He thus had a formal grounding in Marxist economics which inspired his later interventions in doctrinal controversies. From 1933 to 1934, he worked in the Party and the Council of Commissions and had a hand in the purges in the Urals and in the Chernigov oblasts.

In 1937, he was elected secretary of the Rostov obkom and in 1939 promoted to First Secretary of the Stavropol kray. He remained in this area during the war, functioning as a political member of the Military Council of the North Caucasian Front and Chief of the Stavropol kray staff of Partisan Detachments. Suslov is credited with a major role in the brutal deportation of the Chechen-Ingush and other north Caucasian nationalities by the N.K.V.D. troops in 1944, an action later repudiated by Khrushchev. He was elected a member of the Central Committee at the XXVI Party Conference in 1941.

The party's confidence in Suslov as a tough administrator was further marked by his appointment as chairman of the Central Committee Bureau for Lithuania (1944-46), responsible for the "re-establishment of Soviet rule", a job he carried out with complete ruthlessness involving the deportation and death of thousands of Lithuanians. He became a party Secretary in 1947 and later Chief of the Administration for Propaganda and Agitation, a field with which he was closely identified for the rest of his life.

As Moscow's representative, he was involved in Cominform intrigues including the expulsion of Yugoslavia.

via and the purges of Titoists in Eastern Europe.

Suslov was editor of *Pravda* from 1949-50 and in 1952 published a vindictive indictment of N. A. Voznesenskiy, a victim of Stalin's Leningrad purge in 1949 (this proved somewhat of an embarrassment for Suslov later when Voznesenskiy was rehabilitated in 1963). He was appointed to the Presidium, the top Party organ, in 1952 at the XIX Party Congress a year before Stalin's death but was dropped from the reduced Presidium formed after Stalin's death to be re-appointed in 1955 and remained firmly fixed there until his death.

Unlike in temperament as he was the extrovert Khrushchev, he nevertheless played a major role in Khrushchev's assumption of the leadership in 1957. His subsequent attitude to the "Anti-Party group" was more in character and he refrained from Khrushchev's violent vituperation of his old comrades. Nevertheless, it was Suslov who almost casually announced in January 1964 that "Molotov and others had been expelled from the Party."

Suslov was to be the fore in the big debates on Khrushchev's innovative plans which he invariably opposed, and must have exercised a considerable influence behind the scenes on party opinion. It is not therefore surprising that Khrushchev should have appointed his own tame ideologist L. F. Ilychev to the important post of Agitprop chief over the head of the doctrinaire Suslov in 1958 and as head of the newly formed Ideological Commission in 1962.

The main lines of Khrushchev's foreign policy — long term aim of a détente with the United States, the renewal of relations with Yugoslavia and his uncompromising attitude to the Chinese — received less than no support from Suslov. He showed his antipathy to Khrushchev's rapprochement with Tito (whom he had earlier anathematized in the Cominform forum) by stressing the evils of "revisionism" over "dogmatism", and his lurking sympathy with the Chinese by playing down "dogmatism".

Once the Sino-Soviet dispute came into the open, Suslov's efforts seemed bent on lowering the temperature of the conflict and reconciling positions. Later Suslov shifted his ground on this issue and echoed Brezhnev's criticism of the Chinese leadership at the December 1966 Plenum. He constantly harped on the dangers of "revisionism" implicit in de-Stalinization, and Khrushchev's hysterical outburst at the avant-garde painting exhibition in Moscow in 1962 has been attributed to Suslov's influence. In the important "metals" index controversy in 1960-61, Suslov stuck to the orthodox line of the priority of heavy industry and defence investment when Khrushchev was making Soviet economic history by urging the counter

claims of consumer industries and those "directly satisfying the needs of the people". Suslov was also out of step with Khrushchev's party reorganization and his agricultural reforms. Against this background it is not surprising that Suslov should have been a key figure in the unseating of Khrushchev and indeed is credited with having drawn up the party's indictment against him at the crucial Presidium meeting in October 1964. The prompt dismissal of Ilychev by the new regime reflected Suslov's entrenched position as the senior party ideologue.

During the 50 years Anniversary celebrations in Moscow in November 1967, Suslov acted as host to many foreign Communist delegations and conducted a round of talks with CP leaders in preparation for a Soviet sponsored international Consultative Conference to discuss "unity of action of Communist parties against imperialist forces". Suslov later led the Soviet Delegation to the Budapest meeting in February 1969, which decided to hold the Conference in November-December 1968. His speech reflecting the harsh Soviet line about China and preoccupation with orthodox dogma may well have been responsible for the Rumanian withdrawal from the meeting.

Subsequently, through the 1970s and 1980s, as the leading ideologue in the Brezhnev-led Politburo, Suslov continued his busy round of meetings with Communist delegations visiting Moscow, participation in major CP and government ceremonial occasions and representation of the CP of the Soviet Union abroad. He was less than keen to delegate to Hanoi for the Vietnamese Party congress in 1976, and to Warsaw for the XII Congress of the Polish Party. He also appeared in Warsaw at various crucial moments in Soviet-Polish affairs arising from the emergence of the Solidarity movement and was forward in denouncing what he described as Western interference in Polish affairs.

His standing at home and in the Bloc countries was reflected in the shower of decorations he received on his 75th birthday in 1977. First came the Soviet order of the October Revolution for great services to the CP, CPSU and the Soviet State, followed by their highest orders from the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the Order of Sukhe Bator from Outer Mongolia.

Two volumes of his speeches were published in 1977 under the title *On the Roads of the Construction of Communism*. In 1981 he chaired the 25th anniversary of the XXVI Congress of the Soviet Communist Party and was elected a member of the Presidium of the Congress.

Suslov will be remembered as a strictly doctrinaire Communist of the Stalinist school whose obsolescent views were largely divorced from the realities of life. He was a withdrawn, enigmatic personality who seems to have left an impression of "inaccessibility" on his diplomatic contacts who found him peculiarly aloof and inaccessible. A poor speaker, lacking any Khrushchevian magnetism and without political aspirations, he does not appear to have aspired to the top Soviet leadership (for which, indeed, he had no obvious gifts). In the labyrinth of Party politics, however, he must have been high among those sinister "Bears of Stalin", featured in Yezhov's now famous poem (1962). He leaves a son and a daughter, the latter a philologist-historian.

PROF FRIEDA GOLDMAN-EISLER

SIR CHRISTOPHER ASTON

Professor Frieda Goldman-Eisler, the pioneer of psycholinguistics in Europe, died at her home in London on January 19 after a protracted illness, at the age of 74.

She was Emeritus Professor of Psycholinguistics and honorary Research Fellow at University College London.

Frieda Eisler obtained her doctorate from the University of Vienna in 1931, and in 1934 left Austria for Britain. After a period of postgraduate study at University College, she became a member of the Medical Research Council's scientific staff at the Maudsley Hospital, where two of her research projects attracted widespread attention.

One was a study of the association between breast-feeding and the development of certain personality traits. This was the first systematic and quantitative test of Freud's theories about the role of early experience in the formation of adult character. The second concerned the application of quantitative measures to the psychotherapeutic interview, and it was undoubtedly a major step in the direction of rational conviction that everything is done better elsewhere, e.g. that the French metro never breaks down or that American planes land more frequently on runways than ours do.

She returned to University College in 1955, where she was appointed Reader in 1960 and became the first scholar in the field to hold the title of Professor of Psycholinguistics, in 1970. She was the first to recognize the

value of hesitation pauses in speech as a potential window onto the cognitive processes which underlie the production of speech in the individual. She was able to demonstrate how speakers used pause-time to plan their utterances and to select the words that composed them, and how the pattern of breathing adapted to demands of planning speech.

Her major findings are summarized in *Psycholinguistics: Studies in Spontaneous Speech*, published in 1968. Her methods and theoretical ideas have proved fruitful in many areas, and subsequent research has applied them to the study of language development in children, the analysis of aphasic disorders and the investigation of the speech and language of schizophrenia. In 1978, a bibliography of work on pauses and cognitive processes, listed over 700 articles and books; and in the same year an international congress on this subject was held in Germany, the proceedings of which were published under the title, *Temporal Variables in Speech: Studies in Honour of Frieda Goldman-Eisler*.

Frieda Eisler's scientific interests, absorbing though she found them, never overshadowed a great range of other concerns, in politics, in the cinema (she was film critic of the periodical *Weltbühne* while in Vienna), and the arts and indeed these served to throw into greater relief the humanity of personality which will long be remembered.

Sir Christopher Aston, KCVO, who died on January 25 at the age of 62, stood down as chairman of Powell Duffryn, Ltd, a post to which he had been elected in 1978.

He entered the public service in 1931 as a clerk for the Ministry of Pensions, and rose to become, for England of the International Year of Disabled People. He was first mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead 1974-76, a member of Buckinghamshire county council and from 1974 a county councillor for Berkshire.

Aston did much good work in the public sphere having been chairman of the Trescowthick Foundation, the Trust of the Prince Philip Foundation, and the Disabled Sports Foundation. He was also chairman of the Windsor Theatre Royal Company, Ltd.

The son of Major-General Sir George Aston, KCB, KCMG, he was born on January 1920 and educated at Marlborough and at the University of Cambridge where he took a degree in engineering.

In the Second World War he served in the Royal Navy and was taken prisoner in the raid on St Nazaire in 1942. After the war he pursued a career in business. He was managing director of Hall and Ham River Ltd in 1967-68, deputy chairman of Powell Duffryn in 1977-78. From 1972 he was a director of Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd, Elgen Fitzgerald McNeil. They had a son and two daughters.



FINAL REDUCTIONS

Ends Saturday 30th January

Today 9am-5.30pm

Open daily 9am-5.30pm; Thursdays 9am-7pm.

MEN

	NORMAL PRICE	SALE PRICE
● DAKS 2-pce suits.....	£449.00/£425.00	£59.00
● DAKS jackets.....	£99.00	£45.00
● DAKS trousers.....	£39.00	£19.50
● Cotton shirts.....	£21.00	£9.50
● Leather shoes.....	£59.00/£41.00	£22.50
● Wool knitwear.....	£70.00/£60.00	£29.00

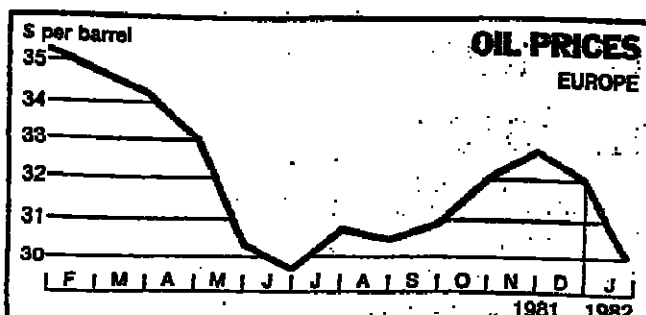
WOMEN

	NORMAL PRICE	SALE PRICE
● Less than half price		
● DAKS skirts.....	£59.00	£21.00
● Tweed coats.....	£99.00	£39.00
● Maui Divers gold rings, pendants and earrings eg.....	£48.00	£19.00
● Diane von Furstenberg jeans	£24.00	£9.00
● Italian knitted dresses.....	£58.00	£19.00
● Long sleeve wool dresses.....	£79.00	£19.00



BUSINESS NEWS

Oil crisis builds up



A crisis is building up in the oil market, as our chart shows. Spot crude prices have fallen sharply in Europe since the beginning of the year, despite attempts by Opec at three meetings last autumn to stabilize them, and the trend is being followed in America. Soviet sales of crude oil have been higher than expected as the Soviet Union seeks foreign exchange to pay for grain and technology imports. But demand has also been weak despite the severe winter in northern Europe. West German consumption fell by almost 15 per cent last year.

House deal 'concealed'

The was in which Lord Grade and Mr Jack Gill were granted similar options to buy their homes at cost from Associated Communications Corporation may have breached the companies act it was alleged in the High Court yesterday. During the Post Office pension fund's action to stop Mr Gill's golden handshake and in buying his house for £100,000 lower than its market value, it was claimed that the options, granted in 1975, were never disclosed to shareholders, that Mr Gill's option was signed by Lord Grade and Lord Grade's option, granted three days earlier is thought to have been signed by Mr Hill. Mr Peter Millett QC, for the Post Office said there was evidence that Mr Gill's option was concealed from other ACC directors and the company's auditors. The case continues Friday.

Fewer jobs in pubs

Employment in pubs and clubs has declined by 20,000, of 5 per cent in the past year as beer sales have plunged, the Brewers' Society told the Chancellor yesterday when warning that further excise duty increases in the Budget would threaten more sales declines and imperil additional jobs. The society's workforce has almost doubled to 268,000 in 1980, have been the worst hit, shedding nearly 8 per cent of employees. Taxation on beer had almost doubled since the Government entered office in 1979, it was pointed out by Mr Derek Palmer, Brewers' Society chairman and head of Bass. Beer production was down more than 5 per cent last year and sales are currently 8 per cent down with much bigger losses during the worst of the winter weather.

Mining loss

Leading Australian mining group MIM Holdings, showed the impact that lower metal prices are having on its trading results when it reported a loss for the six months to December 31. It incurred a loss of A\$4.5m (£2.64m) compared with a profit of \$76.5m for the previous corresponding period.

MIM directors said that the main cause for the loss was lower metal prices combined with a reduced volume of copper sales compared with the same period of the previous year.

- How three top businessmen spent their day. Page 15
- What's in store for the hire purchase sector. Page 15
- Change at the top at Imperial Group. Page 16

Government overspends by £1,250m

By David Blake

Only eight weeks after the Chancellor announced revised spending plans for 1982-83, the Government has had to dig into the contingency reserve to find an extra £1,250m for spending programmes.

This will be shown by the detailed public spending plans published with the Budget. The money is expected to go on social security, housing and export credit guarantees.

At the same time, the Government has virtually finalized plans to increase its planned spending in 1983 by less than the expected rate of inflation. The plans may lead to new rows in the autumn as the Cabinet tries to hold total spending within limits.

The extra spending on programmes in the coming year, while it does not alter the public spending total, is bound to worry Treasury ministers seeking room for manoeuvre for tax cuts. The contingency reserve has now been whittled down to £2,500m and may be reduced even further by the time the White Paper on public spending is published on March 9.

After long, hard bargaining, the Government seems to have settled on only small increases in the amount of cash made available for public spending in 1983-4 and 1984-5. The White Paper will give all spending totals in cash terms, instead of trying to estimate the volume of spending, as in the past.

Total spending in 1982-3 will be £115,000m; in 1983-4 it is expected to be £128,500m, all in cash terms. That implies a rise of about 5½ per cent in 1983-4 and a further 5½ per cent in 1984-5.

The Government pledged itself last autumn to draw up plans based on the cost of public spending rising by 6 per cent in 1983-4 and 5 per cent in 1984-5. That would

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

	Cash in £000m	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85
Planning total	107	116.12	128.5	137.1
Annul sales	0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Contingency reserve	0.3	2.5	4.0	5.0

Note: A minus Sign (-) means that the government is saving money. No allowance is made for shortfall in the above figures. The contingency reserve is used for unexpected expenditure.

imply a slight squeeze in the volume of spending in the year beginning next April and about 14 per cent increase in 1984-5. But since those inflation figures were published, most private forecasters have suggested that prices will rise by more.

The much heralded privatization programme of selling off government assets is not expected to bring much benefit to the government's finances. It is forecast to raise only £500m this year, mostly from selling shares in British National Oil Corporation, £600m in 1983-4 and £600m in 1984-5.

To try to avoid problems experienced in recent years, the Treasury has insisted on holding back large sums for future years to pay for programmes which crop up later. As a result, only £118,000m has actually been committed to specific spending programmes in 1983-4 and £124,000m in 1984-5. That leaves £4,000m for the contingency reserve for next year and £5,000m for 1984-5.

The White Paper will probably form part of a general attempt to show what the Government's economic policies would look like from 1984 onwards, after the next general election. There may also be an attempt to fit all the policies into one framework.

The White Paper is not expected at present to say what proportion of the country's total output will be used as government expenditure.



The biggest consignment of Japanese cars ever to arrive at a British port — 5,540 Datsuns worth £29m — is being unloaded at Southampton

Japan to drop 67 trade curbs

From Peter Hazell, Tokyo, Jan 26

Japan is to eliminate or ease 67 non-tariff barriers which have impeded imports and led to friction between Japan and its Western industrial trading partners.

Mr Shintaro Abe, Minister for Industry and International Trade announced today that he will appoint a special ombudsman to look into the grievances of foreign businessmen who are confused by Japan's complicated bureaucratic procedures.

The announcement was made today as EEC senior representatives met Japanese officials in Tokyo to ask Japan to increase the volume of its imports of manufactured goods and take other steps to reduce its long-sided surplus with Europe.

Officials said the Government will take steps next

week to eliminate or ease 67 of Japan's 99 testing and inspection rules, described by Western diplomats as imports-impeding non-tariff barriers.

Mr Abe also indicated that Japan might also soon lift curbs on 27 items, mainly agricultural products, which are currently subject to stiff import quotas.

"Time is running out. We must act quickly and things that can be done must be done now," Mr Abe warned.

Unless Japan produced evidence that steps are being taken to resolve the current state of trade disputes by June when the next economic summit is held in Paris, "the free trade system may not be maintained," he added.

Mr Abe's warning came as the Finance Ministry released new statistics which

showed that Japan's trade imbalance with the community grew to a record \$10,326,000m (£5,581,000m) last year. "It will not do Japan any good if we do not respond to requests by United States and EC regarding non-tariff barriers."

Earlier, however, today, Mr Yoshio Sakurachi, Foreign Minister, warned Western industrialized nations they will have to restructure their industries and become competitive if they hoped to reduce their huge trade deficits with Japan.

"Western nations should not be overly distracted by account ledgers on international trade but should revitalize their industries and economies under the principle of multi-lateral free trade," he said.

'Al Capone' jibe at Burton directors

By Peter Wainwright

Mr Cynthia Israel, a Burton Group shareholder, yesterday attacked the directors of the £112m clothing chain when she told them: "You make Al Capone look like a petty shoplifter."

Here was the only voice of dissent at the annual general meeting in the City's baroque Drapers' Hall which lasted just eight minutes and was attended by around 200 shareholders.

Afterwards she said: "I was most disappointed that no-one else backed me up. I feel that the institutions don't care about shareholders and I think that shareholders should speak up."

Mrs Israel spoke against boardroom plans (blocked by pension funds and insurance companies) to help Mr Ralph Halpern, 43, chairman and chief executive, buy a £275,000 Hampstead mansion. She also hit out at share options for directors, and the £4,014 expense of twice sending out to shareholders notice of resolutions for the meeting which she wanted deducted from directors' pay.

She asked whether there were any hidden perks. Mrs Israel got no applause. This was reserved for a second shareholder who said: "Give the directors as much as they want just so long as they continue to produce the dividend."

Mr Halpern told the meeting that sales so far in the six months to the end of February were 14 per cent up. He added: "It is confidently expected that profit at the trading level for the first half of this financial year will exceed that achieved in the first half of last year."

Satellite link
American Telephone & Telegraph intends to use its communications satellite for radio broadcasts across the United States from the end of the year.

MARKET SUMMARY

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 568.9 up 11.2
FT 100 63.80 up 0.28
FT all-share 325.73 up 5.78
Bargains 20,199

Relief at Wall Street's resilience to last week's United States money supply figures overcame yesterday's gloom and gains in every sector the FT index closed up 11.2 at 568.9.

The only big exceptions to this were two substantial rights issues which coupled with disappointing half year profits knocked 15p off Davy Corporation to 154p on news of its £25m cash call.

Clyde Petroleum is looking to shareholders for £25m to finance an American acquisition and is not expected to have any trouble in raising the money, which was more than the market had expected.

ICL rose 4p to 45p on news that acceptances had been received for 95 per cent of its £32.2m rights issue launched last December.

Second line oil issues performed well as the sector returned to favour after a long period in the doldrums, with Carless Capel and Candecora putting on 6p apiece.

There was no great volume of trade in leaders but there were improvements with Unimac up 15p to 445p, Lesmo rising 15p to 384p and Tricentral up 10p to 226p.

Stores reflected hopes of tax cuts in the budget and a slight increase in consumer spending over the last quarter with Debenhams at 76p, 6p better and GUS A up 18p to 508p among the best in two way trading.

Marika and Spencer closed at 144p, up 5p the 1981/2 high, but

trade was thin according to dealers.

Foods attracted speculative interest with old takeover prospect Unigate up 4p to 113p, while Heston and Palmer put on 4p to 114p on renewed talk that Allied Lyons would better the £72.6m bid made yesterday by Rowntree. United Biscuits added 3p to 129p in sympathy while other food shares were up 5p to 10p.

Further consideration of its figures put a further 6p on Rank Organisation to 195p after yesterday's 13p jump.

Debenhams Ferguson Industrial Holdings more than doubled its profits in the nine months to November and the shares reflected this, closing up 4p to 84p.

Brokers Penny Easlon noted in a review of the equity market that some properties still relied largely on variable rate debt financing and their share price could fall significantly as interest rates rise.

But leading property shares including Great Portland, M&P and Land Securities were all up 6p higher, in line with the market.

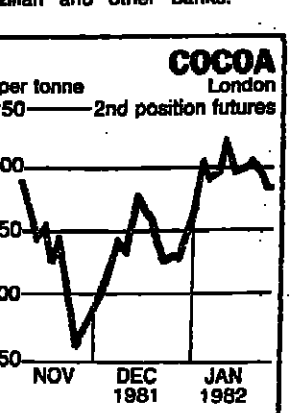
Banks gained 10p and insurance 5p to 6p better. Ahead of tomorrow's results Union Discount was up 10p to 130p and 50p in anticipation of the terms to be offered by RTZ.

In line with the rest of the market gilts opened up 2½ and put on a further 2½ in after trading hours on news from the American bond market. Long dated ended the day with gains of 2½ while shorts closed up 2½.

Equity turnover on January 25 was £142,981m (19,136 bar. gains).
Garrett David

COMMODITIES

● Cocoa producers and consumers will today discuss a proposal that the levy on cocoa exports be increased from one cent a pound to three cents. This would be the International Cocoa Organization, which is meeting in London, will accept the offer of a \$120m loan from Brazilian and other banks.



TODAY

Employment in production industries (November)
Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing (November)
Stoppages due to industrial disputes (December)
Sir Michael Edwards at Commons Industry and Trade Select Committee giving evidence on BL corporate plan.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: The Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,863.40 down 42.86
Hong Kong: Exchange closed.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar met profit-taking as US interest rates eased slightly

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.8705 up 160 points
Index 90.9 up 0.2
DM £325.0
Fr. F 11.02
Yen 427
Dollar Index 110.1 down 0.4
DM 2.9137 down 220 points
Gold \$377.75 up \$5.75

MONEY MARKETS

● Firm initially, rates eased slightly in late trading. The Bank provided £430m help on a forecast shortage of £400m, extending its 13½ rate to Band 3 bills.
Domestic rates:
Base rates 14
3-month interbank 14½-14 9/16
Euro-Currency rates:
3-month dollar 15-15½
3-month DM 10, 5/16-10 3/16
3-month Fr.F. 15½-15¾

Gower urges securities reform

By Lorna Bourke

Radical proposals for a complete reorganization of the investment and securities industry were put forward yesterday by Professor Laurence Gower, in a comprehensive preview of the entire framework of investors protection.

His conclusion that the current legislative controls are inadequate and in some areas, most notably the Stock Exchange, and small investment advisers sector, virtually non-existent, will surprise few. But his recommendations for reform are likely to arouse strong feelings amongst some members of the City investment community.

He is particularly critical of the Stock Exchange. "I see little prospect of effecting more needed reforms elsewhere unless the Exchange takes the lead, or of introducing comprehensive self-regulation unless the Stock Exchange collaborates. It seems obvious that there can be no comprehensive framework of regulation of securities if the all-important market for securities and a major segment of investment management and advice is divorced from it."

He acknowledges that his proposals for reform will be unworkable without the full collaboration of the City institutions. If the exempted dealers in securities largely merchant banks and others remain excluded from the regulatory system, "A solution on these lines would not be feasible."

His proposals are based on the concept of self-regulation within a new statutory frame-

work giving the Department of Trade overall control, but leaving the day-to-day policing of the industry to the self-regulatory bodies.

There would be at least four such agencies — the Stock Exchange, an extended Takeover Panel, the Unit Trust Association and a new and controversial body based on the existing Licensed Dealers Association which would cover a wide range of operators in the investment field from merchant banks down to one-man investment advisers.

It is this fourth category which is likely to meet the strongest opposition since the incidence of failures is likely to be the highest among small investment advisers and the merchant banks would inevitably have to foot the bill.

"We are going to be very chilly about that" was the immediate reaction from the Accepting Houses Committee, which sees the proposed self-regulatory body which its members would be obliged to join as only detrimental to the merchant banks. "We are not going to put our reputations on the line for the Norton Warburgs of this world."

The Stock Exchange gave an equally cool reception to the discussion paper.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman, said: "It does not at first sight make much sense to alter quite radically, well-tryed and sensible means of regulating securities markets in order to deal with these problems."

But there are some activities in securities markets

which need tighter regulation, most notably the management of money by people outside the stock exchange who are not subject to adequate discipline and whose clients are not protected by a guarantee fund."

The Unit Trust Association was however, glowing in its praise of professor Gower's proposals.

THE MAIN PROPOSALS
● The current Prevention of Fraud (Investment) Act should be replaced by a new Securities Act which would clearly define securities.

● It should be an offence to conduct business in securities without registration with one of the relevant bodies recognized by the Department of Trade.

● There should be four self-regulatory bodies (possibly more) including the Stock Exchange, the Takeover Panel, the Unit Trust Association and a new body incorporating licensed dealers in securities, merchant banks and investment advisers and counsellors.

● The self-regulatory bodies should be co-ordinated by the Council for the Securities Industry.

● Government supervision should be undertaken by the Department of Trade.

● Life assurance policies should be treated as securities and the anomalous distinctions between them removed.

● Financial and commodity futures should ideally be brought within a regulatory framework similar to that envisaged for securities.

● A Pension Act is urgently needed.

Claim for half the sales in hot snacks

A big bite by Golden Wonder

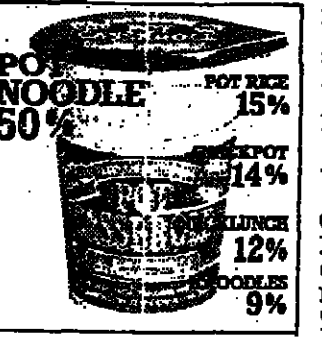
By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Golden Wonder, the Imperial Group subsidiary, may be having a tougher time in the crisps sector of the snacks market but is celebrating over those instant hot snacks that come in plastic pots like overgrown yoghurt packs. In five years this market has grown to be worth £40m a year, with a 21 per cent increase in 1981 compared with, at most, 3 per cent in crisps (£120m a year). There Golden Wonder, with a 25 per cent share, is market leader by barely 1 per cent, threatened closely by Walker's and Smith's.

Golden Wonder claims half the instant hot snacks sector through its Pot Noodles label, with its recently introduced Pot Rice now taking another 15 per cent. But it now believes it can seize up to another 15 per cent share and expand the market itself by bringing in the familiar potato.

"Some people just don't go for noodles or rice so a potato base should actually expand the market which has been showing signs of easing back and so needs a shot in the arm," Mr Mike Knapp,

marketing director at Golden Wonder, said. Hence next Golden Wonder's launch is the Granada TV ad — with the equivalent of national spend of £1m.



Not that there is any meat in these products. Like almost all the instant hot snack producers, Golden Wonder uses other materials like soya. Mr Knapp claims that even if re-formed meat is used the savour has to come largely from flavourings.

Golden Wonder's nearest rival is the snackpot range produced by Batchelors, the famed food company which is part of Unilever. Snackpots' market share, 21 per cent in 1980, declined to 14 per cent last autumn, according to Independent Retail Audit (IRA).

But the six varieties of Quicklunch, produced by KP Foods (part of United Biscuits), now account for 12 per cent of the market, a rise of 1 per cent over 1980. It is Knoodles, made by Knorr (part of the Corn Products Company based in the United States), which has been worst hit.

Knoodles' 18 per cent share in 1980 has been halved, according to IRA. Knorr has been the only other manufacturer to turn to potato as a base. Its Hot Pot sells in the Tyne Tees television area.

That has not stopped Mr Knapp believing that his casseroles, packed by the heaviest advertising in the sector and selling at the average price for such snacks, will make a bigger impact.

Bank granted full status

Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Sir Julian Hodge's Commercial Bank of Wales has finally been granted recognition as a fully-fledged bank. It is a personal triumph for Sir Julian, the controversial Welsh financier, who began his career as a railway clerk.

A year ago the Bank of England refused the Commercial Bank's application because it did not have the required "high reputation and standing in the financial community" and because it did not meet some of the quantitative criteria laid down in 1979 Banking Act. Instead, it was given the junior status of licensee deposit taker.

Commercial Bank decided to appeal against the decision but, last October, it agreed with the Bank to withdraw its appeal to allow new evidence to be considered.

Commercial Bank, which announces preliminary results next week, had to set assets of £66m at end-1980 and made pre-tax profits of £1.1m in that year. Granting of full recognition may hasten its appearance on the stock market. Shares are now traded under Rule 163(2) and Sir Julian has said that he intended to seek a listing.

BL in talks to solve truck strike crisis

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Discussions begin today aimed at ending the widespread strikes threatening the future of British Leyland's loss-making truck and other components from Leyland.

Initially, the talks will be between management and shop stewards representing 8,400 strikers at the Leyland and Chorley plants in Lancashire but moves to set up similar meetings have been made at Bathgate, West Lothian, where 2,600 are on strike.

The all-out stoppages began last weekend in protest at BL's plans to axe 4,100 of the 12,000 jobs within its commercial vehicle organization.

Worst affected will be the Leyland plant where 1,900 will lose their jobs. Bathgate, which is to be developed as the group's primary engine facility, is to lose 1,365 of its 3,600 workers.

Talks will concentrate upon a review of the company's business strategy and on alternative proposals from union officials for the retention of engine manufacture at Leyland.

The strikes are also threatening to halt BL's bus-making operations, which it owns jointly with Bus Manufacturers Holdings. Factories at

Workington, Leeds, Lowestoft and Bristol, employing a total of 4,000, are dependent upon supplies of engines and other components from Leyland.

The dispute has compounded the problems which forced the BL board into a wide-ranging review of the commercial vehicle strategy last year and could lead to further cuts.

The commercial vehicle operations made a loss of £47m in the first half of last year and in its review of 1981, BL said the company's greatest problems and worst results lay in Leyland Group. It called for a major restructuring "to give the massive costs reductions necessary for viability."

Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, is likely to be questioned at length about the crisis facing the trucks operation when he appears this morning before the Commons Select Committee on Industry and Trade. On Monday Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said he had no intention of intervening.

Despite a halving of British demand for trucks to 40,000 a year in the last two years, BL is continuing to manufacture a complete range

McCORQUODALE

Specialist international printers

Results for the year to 30 September:—

	1981 £000	1980 £000
Sales	90,735	80,635
Profit before tax	5,008	4,895
Earnings per share	24.50p	26.06p
Dividends per share	8.00p	7.89p

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:—

- * Profits before tax increased for fifth successive year.
- * Overseas profits before interest up 46%.
- * U.K. profits before interest totalled nearly £4 million, only 7% down on previous year despite impact of the recession.
- * By decisive action to rationalise and close unprofitable operations, the quality of our businesses is very much stronger than it was twelve months ago.

Alastair McCorquodale, Chairman

A copy of the full report and accounts is available on request from the Company Secretary, McCorquodale and Co. Ltd., McCorquodale House, 15 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0HT.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Sir Max and the Savoy

When the reticent millionaire hotelier Sir Max Joseph (below) made a rare public appearance yesterday he gave a revealing tip about his rival, Sir Charles Forte.



Sir Max and Lady Joseph yesterday.

Sir Max is chairman of the hotels and brewing group, Grand Metropolitan, but yesterday he was concentrating on the much smaller Norfolk Capital Hotels, of which he is chairman and stepson Peter Eyles is managing director.

Sir Max and Lady Eileen Joseph attended the opening of Norfolk Capital's Old Poodle Dog restaurant in Sloane Square.

Of Norfolk Capital, Sir Max told me: "I'm looking to sell some hotels, upgrade others and perhaps buy some more."

One he is not after, I gather, is the Savoy — but Sir Max tells me Sir Charles Forte, of Trust House Forte, would like another wrestle with Sir Hugh Wootton for control of the Savoy Group, probably this June.

"And I think he will win," says Sir Max of Sir Charles. "He deserves it."

Lady Joseph advised on the decor of the restaurant — which is aimed at Chelsea's lady shoppers. She has a restaurant of her own in Mayfair, the Snooty Fox, and she tells me she is annoyed with Whitbread chairman Charles Tidbury for planning to open a chain of pub-restaurants of the same name.

● Our stories of the Great Snow are now just a memory, but how about this one from Canada. Two men have just hitchhiked almost 150 miles through the frozen Ontario countryside from Windsor, to a cabin in Woodstock, to face charges of attempted robbery. The case was adjourned because of bad weather, so they hitchhiked back again.

Mrs Cohen's two-year hitch

Civil servant Janet Cohen (below) is strengthening her already considerable links with the private sector by taking up a two-year stint as an assistant director in the



corporate finance department of merchant bankers Charterhouse (right). Mrs Cohen, a solicitor, has been seconded to the bank from the Department of Industry, where she is an assistant secretary. At the DoI she has recently been involved in restructuring of the private sector and in the new £22m assistance to steel castings firms.

She would like to go on to takeovers and mergers at C.J. Her closest links with the private sector is with husband Jim, a director of GEC Transportation.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Timothy W. N. Guinness has been appointed executive director responsible for all aspects of the Guinness Mahon banking group's investment management activities. He was previously a director in the corporate finance division. He succeeds Sir David Hill-Wood who has now assumed a wider business development role within Guinness Mahon.

Sir Guy Fison has succeeded Mr David Rutherford as chairman of the Wine Development Board, and Mr Philip Wetz is the new deputy chairman in place of Mr Gilbert Aikens.

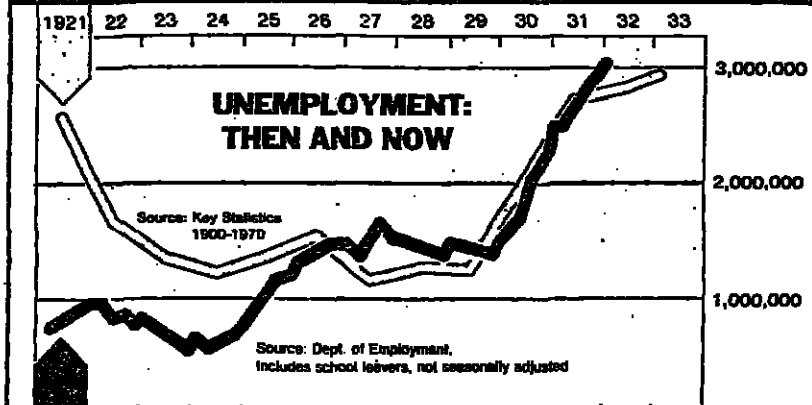
Lord Valzey has been appointed a non-executive director of London & Scottish Marine Oil.

Mr E. Wynn Owen has been re-elected chairman of The Life Offices' Association. Mr M.H. Field has been re-elected deputy chairman.

Mr Bruce T. Smith has been appointed as a non-executive director of Royal Trust Company of Canada. Mr R.H.M. Lindsey has been appointed alternate director for Mr P.T. Gunton on the board of Harrison Malaysian Estates.

Melvyn Westlake examines some disturbing parallels with "the Thirties"

Unemployment: 3 million and rising with no end in sight



Mass unemployment should never be allowed to occur again, it was said after the tragedy of the inter-war years. The famous White Paper on employment policy, published in 1944 said: "The Government accept as one of their primary aims and responsibilities the maintenance of a high and stable level of employment after the war." Yet today, with the level of jobless more than three million, there are more people registered out of work than ever.

Most medium-term forecasts are predicting that the jobless total will remain more than three million until at least the mid-1980s — which is as far as projections often go — or even the 1990s. The more pessimistic see the number without work rising above four million.

It begins to look as if the years of virtually full employment in the 1950s and the 1960s were an aberration rather than a new dawn. A gentle upward drift in the level of unemployment was evident in the later 1960s. The trend accelerated in the 1970s, with the jobless total exceeding one million in 1975 for the first time in post-war history. It then surged to more than two million in 1980. In the lifetime of the present Government, unemployment has more than doubled.

Britain is not alone in seeing dole queues lengthen. Total unemployment in the West is pushing up towards 30 million. In the United States, unemployment is now a whisker of a post-war record. There are now more jobless in Germany than at any time since the early 1950s and the number has doubled in twelve months.

However as a percentage of the labour force, Britain's jobless rate is one of the highest among the major industrialized nations. It is 12.5 per cent — or one eighth of the labour force. This relative performance echoes the situation during the inter-war period. The United Kingdom did not enjoy the kind of boom experienced by other countries in the 1920s and unemployment here was almost continuously above 10 per cent from 1921 to 1939, reaching a peak of 22 per cent — just under three million — in the winter of 1932-33.

But during the worst of the slump, the United Kingdom fared slightly better than elsewhere. It is estimated that 30 million people were out of a job in the main industrialized nations and one worker in four was without a job in the United States and Germany. The statistics for the period are, of course, imperfect and far less comprehensive than those today. In the United Kingdom they were usually based on insured workers and excluded categories such as the self-employed, agricultural workers and married women. The figures for the inter-war years, therefore, underestimate the extent of unemployment.

The lack of work in those days was much more of a regional problem than it is today. In the 1920s, unemployment most acutely affected the areas dependent upon the declining export industries — coalmining, textiles, iron and steel, and shipbuilding. Before 1914, these provided three-quarters of the country's exports and employed a quarter of the working population. After the First World War, the industries contracted sharply in the

face of declining world trade, an over-valued currency and competition from rival industrial nations. Although all regions were affected in the trough of the depression, by the middle 1930s unemployment had reverted to the pattern of the previous decade. The disparity between the unemployment rates of the more prosperous southern half of the country and the regions of the west and north was very marked. The percentage of the labour force without work in the worst hit regions of Wales, Scotland, Northern England and North-east Ireland was two to four times greater than in London and the South East in the middle 1930s.

In Jarrold, Maryport, Merthyr and Motherwell, the level of unemployment was, respectively, 68, 57, 62 and 37 per cent. By contrast, in Coventry, Oxford, Luton and St Albans, unemployment ranged between 4 and 8 per cent (figures quoted by Stevenson and Cook in their publication *The Shump*).

The regional pattern of unemployment today bears some resemblance to that earlier period. Again, it is Wales, Scotland and the North that are amongst the regions worst hit. But the gap between them and the South East is a lot smaller. That most affluent part of the country has seen unemployment rise from 5.5 to 12.5 in the mid-1970s to one in 12. Apart from Northern Ireland, no region has more than one-in-seven of its workers idle, although the rate is much higher in some inner cities.

The relative decline of the once-prosperous West Midlands is the most striking consequence of today's recession. Once the home of many of the new industries that

flowered in the boom years, the region is experiencing some of the highest unemployment in the country as its manufacturing industry contracts and jobs are wiped out.

Employment in manufacturing has fallen by nearly a fifth in the country as a whole during the last three years. The highest decline has been in mechanical engineering, metal manufacture and textiles. Outside of manufacturing, the construction industry has taken the brunt of the recession.

The relative share of manufacturing employment has been declining steadily since the 1950s. One big change, however, is that now there is no room in the service industries or on the Government payroll for those who lose their jobs in manufacturing.

In the 1970s, employment in the government sector rose by about 900,000. Employment in the service industries also showed substantial growth. In 1980 and 1981, jobs in these sectors were also disappearing.

At the same time that employment has been contracting the labour force has been growing, as children born during the baby boom of the 1960s reach working age. A similar situation occurred in the 1930s. An expanding workforce was a major reason that unemployment remained high for so long during that earlier period.

The economic arguments, too, have not changed much during the last half century. One body of economists believe that today's recession is the result of an insufficient demand for the goods that the economy is capable of producing. Because of worries about the balance of payments or

inflation, British governments have been unable or unwilling to boost demand to a level which would ensure that most people could get a job. The problem has been made much more acute by the rise in the price of oil. This has reduced growth throughout much of the world.

As Britain has oil of its own, it is not the direct effect of the price increase that has hurt us so much as the indirect effects, through the fall in income growth elsewhere.

Governments in the West have generally been more concerned about the inflationary consequences of the oil price rise than about the impact on economic activity. They have responded by adopting tough monetary and budgetary policies that have depressed output still further. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, these policies have had a more depressing effect than the 1979-80 oil price rise.

This is happening at a time when the labour force is rising in most industrial countries. According to one estimate, the recorded labour force of the European community rose by five million between 1973 and 1981. A further three million people are expected to be looking for jobs by 1985.

The idea that the recession is largely the result of insufficient demand is rejected by some economists who attribute the causes to problems on the supply side of the economy. It is said that monopoly wage bargaining has pushed wages too high and priced workers out of jobs. It is also argued that the various benefits paid to the unemployed are too generous and consequently remove the incentive to look for work.

Government intervention and the expanding public sector are also said to have damaged private enterprise, impaired efficient markets and reduced underlying growth potential.

These arguments are essentially the same as those put forward in the 1930s — but in a modern guise. Then, as now, Britain had suffered greatly from an over-valued exchange rate. The Treasury held firm, during the inter-war period, to the contention that all unemployment was caused by excessively high wage rates. Confronted by calls from Keynes and others for more Government spending, Treasury ministers insisted that such spending was in itself destructive of underlying economic resources.

But it is not just the misery of mass unemployment in the inter-war years that still haunts us today. There is another legacy — that of industrial conflict, restrictive trade union practices and demarcation disputes. Many of the industrial practices so deplored today originated half a century ago in attempts by workers to share the available work. Much of the bitterness that now surrounds labour relations derives from the folk memories of past battles when unemployment was high and wages were forced down. The divisive "them" and "us" attitudes prevalent in industry became deeply embedded in the 1930s — the "Devil's Decade".

The great danger is that a return to mass unemployment could bequeath a similar legacy for the next 50 years.

Business Editor

Gower presents his case

Professor Laurence Gower's comprehensive discussion paper on investor protection or more accurately, the lack of investor protection — will create quite a few ripples in City ponds.

Few would disagree with the basic concepts of his preferred solution: self-regulation within a statutory framework. But several City institutions, namely the merchant banks and the Stock Exchange, are likely to have something to say about the role envisaged for them by Professor Gower. Some will, no doubt, dispute that any changes are necessary.

Professor Gower proposes that a new Securities Act should replace the outdated Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, which would clearly define what is, and what is not a security. It would then become an offence to carry on business in securities unless registered with one of the relevant self-regulatory bodies recognised by the Department of Trade.

These self-regulatory agencies would be either of the registration council type — as with insurance brokers or a professional association. The distinction between licensed and exempt dealers in securities would be abolished.

Gower suggests that a minimum of four recognised agencies would be required. These would be the Stock Exchange, an enlarged Panel on Takeovers, the Unit Trust Association and a fourth and likely to be the most contentious of his proposals — an amalgam of merchant banks, licensed dealers and investment advisers and managers.

It is acknowledged that without the cooperation of the merchant banks and the existing licensed dealers, this fourth, and most important category, will have no credibility.

However, the merchant banks are likely to have some strong views on the desirability of being lumped in the same category as the one-man investment consultancy in Croydon High Street, and it is this sector of the investment industry which is likely to have the highest incidence of failures.

Professor Gower has few illusions about how his discussion paper will be received. "I will no doubt, hear much from those who market securities and from institutional investors." And he has dispensed penetrating criticisms on current regulatory practices — or lack of them — of several City institutions, not least of all the Stock Exchange.

His discussion paper is bound to stir up considerable reaction among the investment community. Whether he eventually succeeds in provoking both the City and the Government into producing much-needed protection for small investors, is another matter. But, as Gower himself observes, "this is a matter of some public importance."

it is going to be interesting to see how the institutions play their hands come morning. The previous issue, in July, was a right old affair, with the Bank getting the whole issue away in double quick time once it had decided to bow to tender tactics that effectively established a going yield of close on 3 per cent. From the institutions' viewpoint, that gave them a stock that has subsequently performed reasonably well, in part compensating for the underperformance of the Mark I.

This time round, the Bank has tried to beef up the attractions of the stock. The size of the issue is cut from £1,000m to £750m, the coupon goes up to 2½ per cent, and the partly paid element allows fund managers to book their holdings now, while using the call money to play the conventional stocks until a week after the Budget. If, that is, they feel the conventional market to be worth playing.

Whether this star-billing will prove enough to draw the shoppers remains to be seen. This time round, fund managers will probably assume that the Bank will not prove such a pushover and that there are limits to the kind of bargain they can drive. Indeed, some holders of the existing stocks might prefer the authorisation to draw a firm line and make it clear that they are not prepared to see the yield driven higher on each and every new issue ad nauseam. But I somehow doubt that any of these thoughts will stop fund managers from trying it on.

Imps First step

The head office reorganization at Imperial Group is merely the tip of major changes underway at a company which accounts for 4.5 per cent of all consumer spending in the United Kingdom. Mr Geoffrey Kent, the new chairman has been searching for a corporate strategy aimed at transforming Imps from an ailing giant trapped in a series of markets, into a leaner, fitter outfit.

The hope is that the radical restructuring will be relatively painless. But in the tobacco division, whose market share has dropped from 60 per cent to around 50 per cent over the past five or six years, there may have to be factory closures — particularly with national cigarette sales down by 15 per cent since last spring.

Second, the future of the J.B. Eastwood poultry subsidiary — bought for a pricey £400m three years ago — is in doubt. Imps watchers believe it is up for sale. Third, there is a problem of how to make the Howard Johnson acquisition pay for itself. Losses totalled £10m in the six months to April 1981 and fast food chains in the United States have seen their heyday.

The investment community has long been aware of Imps' root problems, with its traditional products undergoing secular decline, hastened by recession, and its diversification policy proving less than successful. But the shares have moved from 60p in November first, there will be drastic surgery, and second, that the annual figures due on February 11, could, with the help of accounting niceties, turn out at perhaps £100m pretax — against £124m previously — rather than the £85m expected last autumn.

Longer-term, with Chancellor likely to hit smokers and drinkers to new saturation points, it must be a fair bet that Imps' profile will look very different by the middle of the decade.

Indexed stock Round three

The authorities' decision to announce a new indexed government stock last Friday took the City by surprise. What were the authorities up to? Were they simply reinforcing the message that they were determined to lead interest rates lower, making further conventional funding unnecessarily dear at the present level of yields? Or were they offering a lifeline to those who fear that any attempt to lead short-term rates down too fast will simply worsen inflationary expectations later this year?

Possibly a bit of both, and

Timetable for life at the top

"Desk? Why do I need a desk?" asks Sir John Clark, the chairman of Plessey, from a deep, comfortable armchair in his Millbank office. From the right-hand pocket of his jacket he produces a daily scribbling card, and from the left a bespoke pocket book.

The paperwork should be entirely flexible. A slave to paperwork is a slave to detail. What papers there are stay on my secretary's desk until they are ready for filing. And we use a signing book. So what do I want a desk for?

On the left of the hexagonal Lutens desk in the office of BP chairman Peter Walters is a pile of papers and folders. Memos and letters are scattered over the blotter. Some of the reading matter in that pile, admits Walters, will be unread.

The idea of a personal assistant is firmly rejected. "Putting an intermediary between a chairman and his executives can leave you open to dangerous misinterpretation," says Walters.

Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds, agrees: "Unless you can make a PA's function absolutely clear, you create more work, not less."

Of the three industry chiefs, Hogg who is 45, is the first to arrive at the office. By the time Peter Walters has settled down to his chauffeur's Daily Mail for the short ride from home to Britannic House, Hogg has already parked his bicycle, shed his weather-proofs, scanned *The Financial Times* and spent half an hour reflecting on the previous day's business. "Cycling," says Hogg, "is one way of keeping in touch with the outside world: one can too easily become cosseted by chauffeurs and secretaries."

Sir John Clark, who is up at 6.30am organizing the family takes his exercise on foot but cheats a little. His chauffeur drops him at the day's chosen starting point and picks him up further on.

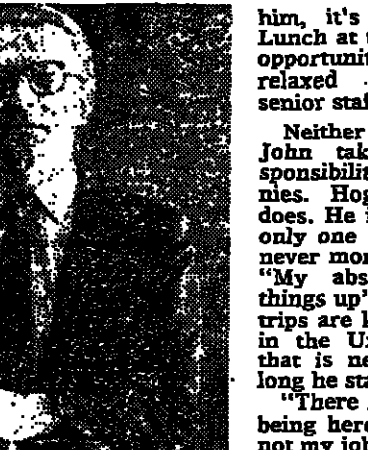
Walters begins his Monday mornings in company with his six managing directors.



Hogg: in by bike



Clark: needs no desk



Walters: reads chauffeur's newspaper.

The meeting is divided into three parts: the first for formal presentations; the second for a round-table report on the previous week; the third for social, personal and personal matters. The meeting works to a strict time limit, although the second period is given greater elasticity.

Plessey's key meetings tend to be more loosely structured and to start in the afternoon rather than the morning, lasting until the early evening if necessary. "I hate agenda items," says Sir John, "and it is a mistake to take big decisions under pressure of time."

It was also a mistake to become a "professional" director with a seat on boards here, there and everywhere. "You can only do that at the expense of your own business," Sir John holds just one directorship — with the Banque Nationale de Paris. He sits on the Defence Industries Council and is vice-president of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Christopher Hogg is even more single-minded: his time belongs exclusively to Courtaulds. He understands the argument that outside experience can be useful, but maintains that the time is barely enough hours in the day to run his own show let alone get involved in other peoples'.

Like Sir John, Walters has just one external board commitment as a non-executive director of NatWest Bank. But he is on the General Council of British Shipping; is vice-president of the Institute of Manpower Studies; and a member of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

AT WORK: CHAIRMAN'S DAY

By Robin Laurence

Sir John and Hogg are reluctant to accept speaking engagements — Sir John likes to be in bed soon after 10am at Ten, and Hogg makes an exception if the subject is one which he happens to want to focus his mind on. Walters is generous with his evenings but there are certain criteria to be met before he accepts. "And I draw the line at attending more than three functions in a row."

Walters also draws a line at the number of people to have direct access to his office. They number about 20 and include main board directors, and the managers of public day run his own show let alone get involved in other peoples'.

him, it's business dinners. Lunch at the office offers an opportunity for general and relaxed discussion with senior staff.

Neither Walters nor Sir John takes a day-to-day responsibility for their companies. Hogg very definitely does. He is out of the office only one day in the week — never more if he can help it. "My absence would hold things up," he says. Overseas trips are kept short. If a day in the United States is all that is needed, that is how long he stays.

"There is no substitute for being here on the spot. It is not my job to visit the troops."

Peter Walters, at 50 BP's youngest ever chairman, has been in charge for less than four months and is still making up his mind about visiting the troops. He thinks it is probably not his job to go out of his way to be "seen" or to become anything of a public figure.

Sir John is out and about as much as time allows. "Too many industrialists get bogged down with personnel matters or accounting. What they tend to forget is that the business of making profit is product," he calls regularly to the company's research laboratories and visits the main manufacturing sites at least twice a year.

Some of the time he has lost by travelling around the country has been won back through restructuring the company's management system. "Since the CEO has been in existence, I have had more time to think," said Sir John.

That thought tends to come to fruition rather early in the morning which, he says, is a damn nuisance. "I had two ideas two nights running at 4.17 am."

Sir John, who will be 56 on St Valentine's Day, appears to be collecting his sleepy thoughts earlier as he gets older. The last recorded nocturnal inspiration — concerning the weakness of the five-year plan — occurred at five minutes past five.

NatWest Investment Accounts

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, January 29th, 1982, the rate applied to SIX MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS will be 14% per annum and THREE MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS will be 13½% per annum.

National Westminster Bank Limited

[illegible]

Skiing



Klammer: 'a pity they have smoothed out ruts'.

Miss Flanders keeps plenty in reserve

Schladming, Jan. 26.—Holly Flanders of the United States recorded the fastest practice time for the women's downhill event at the World Alpine Skiing Championships.

Flanders, aged 24, from Deerfield, New Hampshire, clocked 1:42.62 on the 2.6km course with a drop of 674 metres. The American, fourth fastest in the opening practice sessions yesterday, recorded the time that won her the World Cup downhill at Badgastein, earlier this month, but said she still had plenty in reserve.

Cordelia Proell of Austria, fastest yesterday, was second quickest with 1:42.64. American veteran Cindy Nelson was third on 1:43.65 with both the Assoulin of Switzerland fourth with 1:43.73.

While the women practiced at Haus, five kilometres out of town, the men got in the first downhill trials on their course. Many of the top skiers did not take the session too seriously—the individual downhill is not scheduled until Sunday—and there was a surprise leader.

Helmut Hoeflechner of Austria, who is not in the main event, the Austrian team and will almost certainly be one of the reserves, covered the smooth 3,540 metre course in 1:56.22.

Silvano Nelli of Switzerland was second in 1:55.55 with Erwin Resch of Austria—winner of the World Cup race at Val Gardena third in 1:57.08. Swiss and Austrian racers took the first nine practice places. Doug Powell aged 24 from Champan, N.Y., was a surprise 10th with 1:58.31.

His compatriot, Chip Cochran, was less fortunate. Cochran, aged 21 from Greenfield, Maine, injured a knee in a fall and was treated at hospital. He is almost certain to be out of the downhill. Austrian veteran Franz Klammer and Read said their only quibble was that the course had been what Read described as "over-prepared" by the Austrians.

He added: "It is a pity they have smoothed out some of the ruts."

Customs hold up world medals

Schladming, Jan. 26.—An eager Customs officer demanded entry of a special permit or the payment of import tax when medals for the world ski championships were presented to Austria's border.

"How many medals will stay in the country and how many will be re-exported?" the Customs officer asked in Austrian. The Federation official, Gianfranco Kasper, replied: "All of them."

If you can tell me whether Franz Klammer of Austria, or Steve Podborski of Canada, will be in the downhill, I might be able to tell you," was Mr Kasper's reply quoted in Austrian newspapers today. Two hours later, after a telephone call to the Finance Ministry, Mr Kasper said: "The Customs will let them pass."

Schladming, with his case of 24 medals.—Reuter.

Downhill racing without frills Success for Podborski is deserved and rewarded

By Peter Bills

Steve Podborski could become Canada's first world downhill champion in Schladming, Austria, in the next fortnight. He is arguably the most exciting and most effective of all the competitors on the downhill circuit. So far, Podborski has been a crust in easy street. Not Podborski. Fierce training, iron discipline and willpower are part of the make-up.

The Canadian skiers have commanded much respect this season, but their efforts almost came to nothing because of a lack of money. There is the small matter of the North Atlantic Ocean between Canada and its young heroes, Podborski and Read. Financial backing from any of the large Canadian companies was not forthcoming. So Podborski and Read and friends pumped out money from their own pockets. Podborski is a pleasant and affable man. "Sport isn't only about what happens on the mountain or playing field," he says. "Why not be pleasant to people, whatever the situation? It is not that important to win, but it is important to meet people and chat and get on with all different kinds of people."

Podborski and Read will be the downhill stars in Schladming on Sunday, they will be worth much more than "schmucks" with snow on their faces.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Piste	Conditions Of?	Runs in resort	Weather (5 pm)	Temp
Andermatt	150	230		Good	Crust	Fair	Cloud	0
Icy patches on all slopes	120	170						
Arosa	120	170		Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-7
New snow on good base	130	255		Good	Heavy	Poor	Cloud	-1
Courmayeur	130	255						
Good skiing but icy patches	130	200		Ice	Crust	Fair	Fine	-7
Isola 2,000	130	200						
Snow spoiled by wind	175	270		Good	Varied	Fair	Cloud	1
La Plagne	175	270						
Good skiing on most pistes	93	170		Good	Heavy	Good	Cloud	-2
Good skiing everywhere	25	70		Good	Varied	Ice	Fine	-4
Souze d'Oulx	25	70						
Good skiing on upper slopes	115	140		Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	0
Steetfeld	115	140						
Snow icy patches	35	90		Fair	Crust	Good	Cloud	-2
North-facing slopes good	195	285		Good	Varied	Fair	Snow	-2
Tignes	195	285						
No snow falling	60	140		Good	Varied	Fair	Cloud	-2
Val d'Ardèche	60	140						
Good skiing on upper slopes								
On the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from a tourist board:								
GERMANY	Depth L cm	Slope U Piste	Weather	Conditions of	Runs in resort	Temp		
Arosa	120	170	Good	Heavy	Good	-7		
Courmayeur	130	255	Good	Heavy	Poor	-1		
Isola 2,000	130	200	Ice	Crust	Fair	-7		
La Plagne	175	270	Good	Varied	Fair	1		
Steetfeld	115	140	Good	Varied	Good	0		
Tignes	195	285	Good	Varied	Fair	-2		
Val d'Ardèche	60	140	Good	Varied	Fair	-2		



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International Time-Share and Property

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before parting with any money or signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.

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The past two years have witnessed a tremendous proliferation of companies and developments offering British time sharers along the Mediterranean coast, in Florida and the Caribbean. Choice has become bewildering, ranging from a flat in a block in Torremolinos to a beach cottage on St. Lucia. Weeks in holiday developments along the Mediterranean coast can be bought for as little as £500 to £700 in the winter rising to over £6,000 at the height of the summer. At the same time outright purchases can cost as little as £20,000 for a Spanish one-bedroom flat or several millions for a villa on Cap Ferrat. At the exhibition, and at others which will be organized during the year, most people will find something to suit their tastes and pockets.

One of the important developments has been the formation of the British Property Timeshare Association, launched last year, a watchdog organization made up of the leading and reputable timeshare operators in this country.

Whenever you make initial inquiries about timeshare it is worth checking to see whether the operator or developer is a member of this organization. Its address is Langham House, 308 Regent Street, London W1R 5AL (tel. 01-637 8049).

Not that the BPTA is any safeguard if anything goes wrong, but members are keen to ensure that timeshare is not blacked because of a tiny handful of rogue operators. Try at all times to check out the authenticity of companies offering your property abroad, always visit the scheme through a "fly-by" system which every reputable operator organizes, and of course ask your



The recently built marina at Puerto de la Duquesa on the Costa del Sol, Spain. Costs of a 49-year time sharing lease range from £490 a week in low season for a studio apartment to £6,800 a week for a three-room apartment in high season. Agents include Montpellier International Timesharing.

solicitor to look at the contracts you are asked to sign. Recent political events in Spain look set to open the doors to easier access to that part of the country adjacent to Gibraltar. Particular schemes likely to benefit from the open border are the Puerto de la Duquesa development at Manilva on the Costa del Sol, run by Fin Terzario SA of Lugano, and the time sharing schemes operated by the Atlantic Group of companies in the same area.

One of the main criticisms of time sharing is that companies are fixed to specific weeks. In the words of Mr Peter Cashmore, marketing director of Asset International: "You should always buy time in a place and develop-

ment that you want to visit at least three years out of every five." If your property is affiliated to Resorts Condominium International you can "swap" your weeks in the high season every two years, or up to three weeks in low season accommodation every year, in any of the resorts. Accommodation ranges from log cabins in Sweden to ski chalets in Switzerland and Austria to flats in Spain. The more money you spend the more points you acquire and the greater your flexibility. Hapimag is operated in this country by Comer International, Fairview Road, Timperley, Cheshire (tel. 061 904 9750).

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Parliament gives backing to rule by Polish Army

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 26

With a swift parliamentary sleight of hand, martial law in Poland has been declared legally binding and constitutionally acceptable.

The new, self-disciplined Sejm (Parliament) voted in favour of the martial law decrees late last night, after listening to a speech by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the military leader, and at least five speakers who extolled the virtues of military rule.

It was a depressing spectacle for those who remembered the independence of the Sejm only seven weeks ago. When Mr Karol Malczukowski, a liberal intellectual, criticized those parts of the general's speech which dwelt on the need for public consultation, he was booed and heckled. Mr Malczukowski, who does not belong to any party, had tried to explain that it was pointless to pretend to consult the Polish people when trade unions were suspended.

Loud protests also greeted Mr Janusz Zablocki, leader of the Roman Catholic Znak faction, when he complained of vendettas against ex-Solidarity members and the practice of forcing Solidarity members to renounce their beliefs. "Don't lie!" a crowd of about 200 shouted at him.

The martial law decrees were accepted with only five abstentions—including the four members of the Znak Party and Mr Malczukowski—and one against, Mr Ramon Bukowski, a Gdansk artist.

There are 460 members of the Sejm, 51 per cent of whom are members of the Communist (PZUR) Party. Others belong to the Democratic and Peasant parties—both of which had started to vote against the Communist Party before martial law—and the Catholic Pax faction which now has a new, conformist leader.

The martial law decrees had to be submitted to Parliament because they had been proclaimed unconstitutionally, that is without parliamentary approval, on the night of December 12-13.

Had it been submitted for Sejm approval, it would almost certainly have been rejected. Indeed, one of the reasons why the Government says it had to declare martial law was the persistent parliamentary refusal to pass swiftly an emergency powers Act banning strikes.

All that has now changed and the Sejm, though it still

has more spark than Moscow's Supreme Soviet, has fallen into the mould of a rubber-stamp Parliament again. Today it approved by acclamation a teachers' charter which defines their rights and duties towards the state. Most of the deputies did not bother to attend the discussion.

Two ministerial positions were filled. A new Minister of Higher Education has been found—after much searching—for it is now one of the most politically sensitive—in the form of Dr Benon Miskiewicz, Rector of Poznan University until voted out last year by the students and staff.

Mr Jaruzelski resigned as minister soon after the imposition of martial law. Dr Miskiewicz will have to enforce the new, very strict regulations binding students—expulsion in three lectures are allowed—Solidarity does not regroup in the universities.

The other ministerial position has been created by the purge of the Gdansk party. Mr Stanislaw Belger, the former Marine Affairs Minister, is to become First Secretary of the Gdansk party to replace the purged liberal Communist, Mr Jerzy Korzonek. The new Minister of Marine Affairs will be Mr Jerzy Korzonek, an economist.

The appointments conform to the general trend of the military council towards playing down the political element in filling government positions and instead creating a form of technocratic-managerial style.

The first martial law restriction to be eased since General Jaruzelski promised such a relaxation was announced today. From February 1 private motorists will be able to buy petrol. However, the supply is still severely rationed. It will only be possible to fill the tank three times a month at most—and it is still extremely difficult (impossible for foreign correspondents) to drive outside the capital.

Intellectuals today renewed pressure on the military regime to relax its grip, with fresh allegations of beatings, mistreatment and harassment (Reuters reports). A petition endorsed proposals for a independent inquiry, which would be non-binding unless Aslef changed its stance, and the leaders of both unions remained hopeful that an announcement might be made this afternoon.

Neither Aslef nor the BR board appeared to show strong enthusiasm for an inquiry yesterday. And while Mr Lowry could order a three-man committee to be set up, possibly under Lord MacCartney, chairman of the Railways Board, and the industry's three unions, in an effort to decide whether the time might be ripe to set up a committee of inquiry, as he has the power to do.

The moves, which provided the first flickering hope of an eventual settlement after last weekend's refusal by Aslef to accept binding arbitration on rostering in return for the 3 per cent second-stage payment they are seeking, were still going on despite serious difficulties.

The National Union of Railmen (NUR) and the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) executives both endorsed proposals for a independent inquiry, which would be non-binding unless Aslef changed its stance, and the leaders of both unions remained hopeful that an announcement might be made this afternoon.

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Fireworks bursting over Hong Kong herald the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dog, on Monday. Five tons of explosives, costing £85,000, were set off, to music, in barges in the harbor.

Acas poised to set up rail inquiry

Continued from page 1 which tends to do that. Industry action loses jobs, it does not gain them.

Throughout yesterday Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, remained in private contact with the British Railways Board and the industry's three unions, in an effort to decide whether the time might be ripe to set up a committee of inquiry, as he has the power to do.

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interfere with the industry's guaranteed working week, since all Sunday work is on overtime rates of time and three quarters, at a total cost of £1.25m to BR in wages each weekend.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the NUR, said last night that BR had agreed to negotiate locally with the unions so that employees could be rostered on Sunday where work was available, and predicted that his members would not be "stupid" and take unofficial action.

The union was, however, faced with another Southern Region rebellion yesterday when 35 Ramsgate-based guards staged a 24-hour unofficial strike against the flexible rostering deal which the NUR has agreed, but Aslef has not.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, said last night the continuing Aslef action was "putting at risk our long-term business" and added: "The impact of the Aslef action now poses the real danger of a shrinking railway and threatens the job security of all BR staff. If this dispute continues, this threat will become reality."

Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef

general secretary, said, however, after the executive meeting that his members had decided to continue the strike because "BR has made no effort to honour its agreement on pay" reached in August.

Yesterday British Rail was said to be prepared to discipline the Doncaster-based driver of the 2245 train from King's Cross if he refused to carry copies of *The Sun* and *The Times* as happened on Monday night. News later: national again decided to send copies of each paper to the terminus after discussions between senior management at BR and News International.

Mr Arthur Britten, News International director of corporate relations, said last night that publication of the statements on an inside page of today's *Sun* was "no way a deal" with the two Aslef branch officers, but was in line with the paper's policy of opening up papers to their comments.

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